

SELECTIONS

FROM THE

RECORDS OF GOVERNMENT,

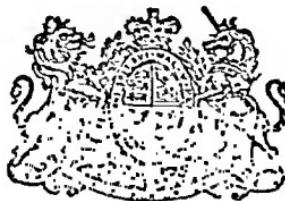
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

SECOND SERIES.

VOL. V.

(FEMALE INFANTICIDE.)

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SELECTIONS

FROM THE

RECORDS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

OF THE

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

SECOND SERIES.

Art. I.

FEMALE INFANTICIDE IN THE N.-W. P.

From R. SIMSON, Esq., Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, to SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Home Department, 27th August, 1868.

REFERRING to previous correspondence ending with this office letter No. 826A., dated the 12th October, 1867, I am directed to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Vice-
rey and Governor-General in Council, copies of papers relating to the prevalence of female infanticide in the Bustee District.

2. The investigation now reported, which has been conducted with much care and judgment, affords sufficient evidence that since the enquiry made by Mr. W. Moore in 1856, there has been no perceptible change in the barbarous tendencies towards infanticide which stigmatise certain branches of the Rajpoot family. The crime indeed is shown to be so prevalent in some villages, as to leave no doubt that wholesale murder is perpetrated of every female infant born into the world.

3. Such a state of things calls loudly for legislative interference. The arm of the executive is powerless under the present state of the law, and for the continuance of this ~~evil~~ and barbarous habit the Legislature (before which the application of this Government for power to act has been ~~so long~~ pending) is at present responsible.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor will not now enter into the means proper to be legalised for this purpose (as ample ~~means~~

rials, based upon the investigation made in 1856, and on the proposals of this Government made in consequence, are now in the hands, and believed to be under the consideration, of the Supreme Government,) farther than to say that, in all suspected villages, the executive should have large powers of exacting information respecting births, of checking and controlling the action of the Daies and others responsible for the rearing of the female infants, and perhaps also of making certain members of the family responsible for their safety. The Lieutenant-Governor is fully aware of the extreme delicacy of the subject, and of the caution and circumspection indispensable in any system of domestic interference; but if this crying and cruel evil is to be in any way checked, there seems no alternative but to enforce, under careful safeguards, an inspection and control of the nature contemplated:

5. The conspicuous example which has been set by the Rajah of Bansee, C.S.I., in setting aside the prescriptive habits of extravagance attending the marriages of the daughters of Rajpoots is extremely gratifying, and a letter expressing the gratification of Government will now be addressed to him. The other Rajpoot families, in which the proportion of daughters is such as to show that they are cared for from their birth, will also be informed that the Government has observed this with satisfaction.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor considers that Mr. Hobart is entitled to the thanks of Government for the care and judgment evinced by him in his proceedings; and for the full disclosure he has succeeded in making of the lamentable condition, in respect of their female progeny, of these inhuman tribes.

*From R. HOBART, Esq., Joint Magistrate, to MAGISTRATE OF
BUSTEE, 18th June, 1868.*

I HAVE the honor to report as follows. In the spring of 1867, it was brought to the notice of the Commissioner of Benares, that the crime of female infanticide was, by rumour, prevalent among the Rajpoots of Pergunnahs Amorha and Nuggur, Zillah Bustee.

2. The District Superintendent of Police was the first to bring the matter to light, but it was no surprising discovery. The practice has been long known to prevail, and in 1856 Mr. Moor, who was appointed Special Commissioner for the investigation of the crime in the Division of Benares, declared that, "though I had expected to find a great prevalence of infanticide, the result of my investigation proved matters to be far worse than I had anticipated."

3. This able officer's investigation was so complete, and so entirely established the existence of infanticide, and his suggestions for the repression of the crime were so good as to thoroughly exhaust the subject, and nothing remained in 1868 to be done except to find whether the practice was still as prevalent as before.

4. General rumour and the result of previous enquiries tended to show that Pergunnahs Amorha, Nuggur, and Bustee were chiefly to be regarded with suspicion.

5. Amorha is held principally by the Soorujbunsees clan, and Nuggur by the Goutums. Both tribes had earned a bad fame long before the mutiny, when their members were affluent, for infanticide.

6. The cause then assigned for their conduct was the reluctance of these men to incur heavy marriage expenses, as they were too proud to mate their daughters with men of equal or inferior clans.

7. The reason then assigned was no doubt the true one, and when it is recollect that the heads of both tribes, the Rajah of Nuggur and the Ranee of Amorha, were adjudged rebels after the mutiny, and their estates confiscated, and that their clansmen of the most numerous tribes in the pergunnahs, the Soorujbunsees and Goutums, met far and wide with a similar fate, and that hundreds of men were thus reduced from comfort to indigence, it was a fair inference that the alleged cause of the crime was in no way weakened.

8. It was also remembered that family pride, as evidenced by marriage, was undiminished, and that the previous inves-

tigation had fallen barren of effect, followed as it was by neither punishment nor reward. From all these premises it was argued that the crime had in no way decreased.

9. I was appointed by Government Order No. 39, dated January, 1868, to investigate the subject, but was unable to obtain an establishment before the 8th of February, and then a good deal of preparatory work, prior to taking the field, was necessary.

10. Returns of suspected villages were called for from the Tehseeldars; the Census papers of 1865 were sent for, and those of Rajpoot villages translated, and the returns of the previous investigation compared with both. Those villages were then selected which occasioned reasonable suspicion from the paucity of their girls.

11. It was subsequently found somewhat expedient to modify this procedure in cases where a particular family of a sept of a tribe was suspected of the practice, and where this family resided in several villages.

12. I took the field soon after the formation of my office, and up till the 8th of May was able to visit personally 180 villages in the Bustee, Nuggur and Amorha Pergunnahs. Thirty-six villages in other pergannahs, detached, distant, and only suspicious from the Census returns, were visited by the Tehseeldars.

13. All villages at all suspicious were visited; my other work would not admit of visiting more. To have done so would have been, on every ground, inexpedient.

14. The following method was adopted. The suspicious villages were marked on the map, and a line struck which would embrace three or four of these villages in each day's march. The Chuprasseses attached to the Camp lightly went forward and collected the Rajpoot men and children at the village chowk.

15. The Tehseeldar and Canoongoe of the Pergannah accompanied me, and I caused the village Accountant with his Census returns, the village Policeman, and some respectable Brahmin Zemindars from neighbouring villages to be present.

16. On visiting each village, the leading elder was called up before the rest of his brethren and asked for the particulars of his clan, the families into which their sons and daughters married, their origin and the existence of infanticide among them.

17. The various heads of families, with their adult males and their boys and girls under ten years of age, were then successively called up and their numbers enquired and entered; the number of marriages of girls within ten years and the amount of their marriage expenses were also ascertained.

18. To render the investigation as perfect as possible, no entry of man, boy or girl was made without seeing them, or on the strongest evidence. In no case, however, was I able to see an infant under 15 days of age, so great was the prejudice, backed by fear of exposure possibly, against showing them.

19. As far, then, as human foresight could make provision, everything was done to secure accuracy.

I have had charge of the part of the District where the crime mainly exists for three winters, and, from moving much about, knew every village and most of the leading zamindars myself.

20. I had with me the high native officials of the parganah, the village officers and respectable men from neighbouring villages, who abhorred the crime, and the census returns to check and prevent deception.

21. I believe, therefore, that the returns of 180 certainly of the 216 villages visited are as correct, with regard to numbers and age, as they possibly can be.

22. Various limits of age have been adopted in investigations of this nature when girls were the subject of enquiry and it was necessary to see them.

23. Mr. Moore, following Mr. Raikes of Mysore, fixed a limit of six years; Mr. Gubbins, at Agra, adopted that of eleven years, while twelve years was that of the census.

24. After some hesitation, I adopted ten years as the limit for the present enquiry, for the following reasons. It gave a good scope for enquiry. It was not objectionable. This fact I had previously ascertained from many native gentlemen. The native memory is particularly lax in remembering dates and ages; common office experience teaches every one this. But every native recollects the mutiny, and especially the restoration of our power in the spring of 1858, and can tell you whether his boy or girl was born after or before this event.

Girls seldom leave for their husband's house before their twelfth year; it is true they visit their husband's family, but boys also much more frequently visit the house of their future father-in-law, so that for the purposes of enquiry these casual and infrequent absences cut both ways, and do not affect the comparative returns in any appreciable degree.

25. Lastly, this limit prevented the possibility, by error or otherwise, of any girl included in Mr. Moore's return from being included in mine, and thus allowed a free comparison between his statistics and those now collected.

26. At first caution was exercised, and the villagers were always asked whether they had any objection to this age; and I never saw any hesitation. On the contrary, great girls of 14 or 15 years of age were constantly brought up by their people, and one of the leading Chuttrees of the District brought out his daughter, who must have reached womanhood some time before, and showed her with considerable pride.

27. While making the enquiry, opportunity was taken to test the census papers of the 10th January, 1865. It was found that the papers of 1866 and 1867 were, in the main, a rescript of those of 1865.

28. And I must say that the accuracy of the census papers of 1865 took me by surprise. Out of 180 villages examined, the papers of thirteen only were found erroneous, and the errors, were both few and trivial.

29. There is no doubt that errors exist in the classification of "boys and girls" in those census returns, *i. e.*, that many are represented as under twelve years of age who were possibly beyond it, but the return of the numbers of sexes is very correct.

30. I have dwelt thus long on the census returns of 1865, and their proved accuracy, because considerable use may be made of them for the purposes of an enquiry into infanticide, if reliance be placed therein.

31. However erroneous such returns may be in regard to age, provided the general number of male and female minors is correct, is immaterial; for those alone are recorded as under twelve years who are born in the house and have not reached puberty.

32. Thus the number of boys and girls born to Rajpoots can be pretty correctly ascertained from these census returns, and a correct percentage struck, not perhaps accurate enough to form the sole basis for punitive and restrictive measures, but accurate enough to admit of comparison with the statistics now collected, and to form a firm basis for sound conclusions from such comparisons.

33. Except the diffidence about very young babies, I really encountered no other. The men were at first a little cautious, but when they found that, except record, nothing was done, they always attended and produced their children and relatives with great good-will.

34. I observed no sullen looks, nor do I think that any deception was attempted. Once only some children of friends on a visit were brought up, but it appeared more by misapprehension than otherwise.

35. One and all they acknowledged the crime as unnatural and infamous, but all disclaimed the present or past practice of it, and the nearest approach to an accusation on the part of one set of villagers towards their neighbours would be couched in general terms, as, "We've heard that the Sooruj-bunsees of such a village kill their girls, but the Gods know."

36. Nearly all spoke of the crime as one of the past—a thing which had existed under former misrule, before Mr. Moore's investigation, before the promulgation of the Penal Code and establishment of the new Police Force.

37. I regret that I cannot think tho crime obsolete or even diminished. It is practised with greater secrecy perhaps, but it is certainly most extensively practised.

38. It is practised mainly by a few of the many* tribes in the District, and the practice is not universal among those tribes, but confined to certain families, and, what is still more strange, to certain localities.

39. The Soorjbuns, Goutnm, Kulhuns, Bais, Burwar, and Chouhan tribes are the most numerous and most open to suspicion. The Hanra, Kousik, Oejen, and Belwar are few in number. They also, no doubt, are guilty of the crime.

40. I have followed the procedure adopted by Mr. Moore, and have termed those villages suspicious in which the percentage of girls in the child population falls below thirty-five.

41. The Soorjbunsof the Bharut Dwaj clan are the highest caste of Rajpoots in the District, and are the most addicted to infanticide. They are very numerous, and live mainly in Pergunnah Amorha. They have two great divisions entitled Baboos and Koours. The former is of higher rank, and is sub-divided into 16 families, inhabiting 50 villages, and the latter is sub-divided into four families, inhabiting 66 villages.

The Rajah of Amorha was the head of the tribe.

42. Of these villages, ninety-nine were visited, and no less than eighty six found suspicious.

43. The Baboos of Bhudawur Kalan live in ten villages, in seven of which I found 104 boys and one girl, who, luckily for herself, was born and bred at the house of her mother's family, and who has not been permitted to come to her

* Above 60 tribes with sub-divisions.

father's house. Their other villages are said to contain two girls.

44. They admit that for ten years there has been but one girl married in all those villages. They have been always an unfeeling sept. Their villages are notorious for Suttee monuments, and their tanks are said to be deep with infants' bones.

45. On the occasion of asking a leading Thakoor, Sheo Ghoolam Singh, Koour, of Gouliunia, whether I should not invite the Bhadawur people to a conference on infanticide, he burst out—"Ask them, they are the very worst offenders; dig up their floors, they are paved with skulls."

46. Next in order come the Koonwurs of Pukherwa Kulam, living in twenty-seven villages. In twenty-three of them I found 284 boys and 23 girls. In ten villages not a girl exists, and in ten villages marriage of a girl is an unknown ceremony. Four villages were not investigated. They seem to possess one girl.

47. Next come the Baboos of Nagpore, who live in twenty-seven villages. In the nineteen visited, I found 210 boys and 43 girls. In fifteen of the villages no marriage of a girl has taken place for a decade. In their three remaining villages there would appear to be three girls.

48. The Baboos of Ramgurh live in sixteen villages. In the nine villages visited, I found 71 boys and 7 girls. In four of these no girls exist, and in seven no girl has been married for at least ten years.

49. The Baboos of Purtabgurh live in five villages. In the two visited, I found 31 boys and 1 girl. One girl is said to exist in their other three villages.

50. The Baboos of Asogpoor preserve their old reputation. They have twenty boys and no girl, and no girl has ever been married from among them, or known in their village.

51. Among the Baboos of Deokulee, who have seven boys, one girl exists; she was born at the house of her mother's family and reared there; and the lucky chance of my being

engaged in investigation in the neighbourhood at the time preserved to the Baboos of Khumuria one girl among 34 boys.

52. Nearly all the families of the Baboos and Koours practise the crime ; the former are perhaps more addicted to it, but the Luelimunpore Koours of Luelimunpore form an honorable and noble exception. They have in their village twenty boys to twenty-one girls, while their brethren in Mulkaineeah have only six boys to twenty-one girls. The Baboos of Koodrulhee are also a worthy exception.

53. The Thakoors of Poorali Murnah, Zillahi Fyzabad, are a large element in the Soorujbuns clan in Amorha, and are entirely unconnected with the former clans. They live in 41 villages, of which 17 were examined, and 154 boys and 54 girls found therein. In eight of their villages marriage has not taken place for ten years.

54. This clan is not so addicted to the practice, but some of their villages are very bad. In six of them there are 76 boys and only 7 girls. It was with regard to Oodeypoor—one of these—that Ramjeeawun Pundit, a man who is much respected and was rewarded for loyalty, said to me—"I have lived near the place as boy and man close on 80 years, and I never saw a marriage in it."

55. In the majority of these villages the taint is found ; the proportion for the whole of the 41 villages is about 63 boys to 37 girls per cent.—better than that of the other Soorujbunes of the Bharut Dwaj clan, but still bad.

56. To look at the Pergunnah of Amorha generally in connection with the Soorujbunes (Bhurat Dwaj). They live in 145 villages, containing 1,369 boys and 409 girls, or an average of 76 to 24. Of these villages, 98 were visited, and 85 villages have been reckoned "suspicious." They contain 1,086 boys and 168 girls, *i. e.*, a proportion of 86 to 14 girls; while of other castes in these villages there are 5,589 boys and 4,043 girls, or 58 to 42, a low average, but high when compared with either of the above rates.

57. The taint does not seem to be great beyond Pergun nah Amorha among the Seorujbuns clan, as in 57 villages in other pergunnahs only three are found below the fixed standard.

58. The Soorujbunes marry their daughters to the Kul hunses of Oudhi, Hanra, Biseyn, Cheuhan, Sirneyt, Kousik, Bhudoria, Buehgotee, Bughel. Their average marriage expenses, as deduced from the tabulated statement, is about Rs. 160.

59. I am inclined to look with distrust on these statements, and on the number of marriages among girls. The men seem generally desirous to make the amount of dower appear as small as possible, and the number of marriages as great as they can.

60. Deen Dyal Singh, of Bishoendaspoer, acknowledges spending Rs. 1,000, and Drig Bijjai Singh, Koour, as much as Rs. 2,000.

61. *The Goutums.*—These men say they come from Argul, in the Cawnpore District. The head of the clan was the late Rajah of Nuggur, who proved disloyal, and whose estates were confiscated with those of many of his followers after the mutiny. They are a numerous and proud clan, and much impoverished. They live chiefly in Pergunnahis Ournungabad Nuggur and Munsoornuggur.

62. Their villages are forty-seven, twenty-six of which were visited, and in twenty-two were found 354 boys and 47 girls, i. e., 88 to 12 per cent.

63. In eight of these villages no girls exist, and in fifteen of them no marriage has been seen for a decade of years, and, if report be true, for very many more. The general average of the tribe is 77 boys to 23 girls.

64. The pergannah percentage in Ournungabad Nuggur of other castes is 56 boys to 44 girls, and of Rajpoots 63 boys to 37 girls. When we find such a low percentage—77 boys to 23 girls, and see such villages as Naikapar with 28 boys and 2 girls, Bhelwul with 26 boys and 1 girl, and Mehreepeor

with 33 boys and 3 girls,—when the voice of rumour over the District implicates the clan, there can be but one conclusion, *viz.*, that the Goutums of Nuggur are guilty of the practice of female infanticide.

65. They marry their girls to Biseyn, Sirneyt, Kulhuns, Soorujbuns, Bais, and Kousik, they say, and their deduced average marriage expenses are about Rs. 300; but some of them, as Sheo Bux Singh, of Ghouspoor, and Jeet Bahadoor Singh, of Pipra, admit spending Rs. 500 and Rs. 800 at a time in the marriage ceremonies.

66. *The Kulhuns.*—The Rajah of Bustee is the head of this clan, which is mainly confined to Munsoornuggur, Bustee. They inhabit 47 villages, and their general percentage is fair. Ten of their villages are among the suspicious, having, when visited, 177 boys to 65 girls. Some of the villages are bad, as Abhaipoor with 17 boys and 2 girls, and Ooska with 15 boys and 3 girls, and there are four villages in which no marriage has taken place for ten years past.

67. The Kulhuns of Bustee are said to have emigrated originally from Guzerat. They are accounted of a lower grade than their brethren in Oudh. The Rajah of Bustee seems to have been, in 1864, a member of the Goruckpore Synod for the curtailment of marriage expenses. He was probably too young at the time to appreciate the object of the meeting, as he does not appear to have used his influence with his people.

68. They marry their daughters to the Sirneyt, Soorujbuns, Biseyn, Goutum, and the deduced average rate of marriage expenses is about Rs. 220. Of course this is often exceeded; Budun Singh, of Sheopore, spent Rs. 1,000, and a fellow-villager Rs. 500 in marriage expenses.

69. *The Birwars* are a searee people, inhabiting twenty-five villages, chiefly in Amorha and Ourungabad Nuggur, with an average percentage of 63 boys to 37 girls, as shown by the census returns. Ten of their villages were, on being visited, found suspicious. Of these, five were found in

Amorha Pergunnah, although there are only eight of their villages in this whole pergunnah. Contact with the Soorujbunses would seem to have infected them. Against the whole tribe, however, there seems to be good grounds for suspicion.

70. They marry their daughters to Pulwars, Bais, Routars, Sirneyts, Soorujbuns and Kulhuns, and are said to have come from Fyzabad. They have no very bad villages, Ranepoor Lod, with 19 boys to 5 girls, being one of the largest, but in four of their villages no marriage has taken place for ten years.

71. *Chouhan*.—This tribe hold only twenty villages in the District, with an average percentage of 77 boys to 23 girls. Of these villages, seven were suspected and visited, and found to contain 83 boys and 15 girls. In the village of Pukree Chouhan alone there are 53 boys and only 9 girls.

72. They came from Etawah, where they appear to have practised the crime, as shown by C. Raikes, Esquire, in his correspondence with Government in 1851. They marry their daughters to the Bhudorias, Kulhuns, Rajkomar, Bhaleysooltan, Soorujbuns, Routar, and Sirneyts, and would seem to spend about an average of Rs. 400 on their weddings.

73. *The Bais* can hardly be said to be addicted to the practice, as out of 143 villages only 19 have been entered among the suspicious. They are very numerous, and their general average good, nor are they implicated by rumour.

74. *The Hanras* have improved since the time of Mr. Moore's visit. They still live in four villages in the north of the District, but have now got six girls, where none formerly existed. They can show no marriages within ten years, which would seem to signify that they have but lately come to preserve their girls.

75. *The Kousiks* are somewhat suspicious. They are, however, very few in number, and inhabit only six villages in the District. In three of these were found 51 boys and 22 girls, and the general percentage is about 69 to 31. They are too few to form a judgment on.

76. I think it will be well to show here the low percentages of girls obtaining generally among the Rajpoots of the District, and for this purpose have constructed a table.

77. I think nothing short of going to the villages can furnish stronger evidence of the crime than these averages. When whole tribes show an average of 70 boys to 30 girls, and the majority of them a much greater disparity, and whilst the average for the whole population of minors is 55 to 45, there must be some special cause at work to remove the girls of the Rajpoots.

78. During my tour I found, as has been found in every investigation of the kind, that a child born in the house of its mother's family is always preserved alive. I met with three such cases. It was also said that once a child had sucked its mother's breast it was allowed to live.

79. The number of sickly little girls is very great, and they seem not to have the same care and attention paid to them as the boys.

80. I found also that the purchase of little girls for matrimony was practised more or less, and occasionally avowed; thus Man Singh, a Raikwar of Dhurmoopoar in Amorha, said he had bought a girl for a sum which I now forget; and Outar Singh, a Bais of Deoyabuksh Pandey, also in Amorha, told me he had bought two girls—one a Biseyn from Gondah, and the other a Sirneyt of Oonwul—for Rs. 155.

81. That this purchase of girls is common, would appear from the fact that in Amorha I have found more than one established broker in this matrimonial trade, and a short time ago large numbers of women of this kind from Azimgurh and Upper Bengal were found by Captain Sharpe, of Gondah, in Mahooapar, a village of ours near the Oudh boundary.

82. This trade, though useful in a manner, is open to great abuse, as kidnapped and stolen children are sometimes disposed of in matrimony by the dealers.

83. The Rajpoots in Amorha, it appears to me, do not care much of what caste their wives are, provided the caste

of such woman is not suspected by others. They purchase with a full knowledge of the doubt, but so long as they can procure a Pundit to perform the marriage ceremonies, and can impose on their neighbours, it is a matter of indifference.

84. Several cases of this nature have come before me judicially. The girl got lonely or was ill-treated by the women of her husband's house and disclosed her caste; her husband then was obliged to feign previous ignorance, and, to show his want of suspicion, was obliged to prosecute the broker and his accomplice for cheating, and the system in this way came to light.

85. The Rahtores are generally said to take a sum of money from their daughter's husband; and the Punwars of Azimgurh are said to import large numbers of girls annually. Man Singh, who was obliged to purchase himself, made this statement to me, and declared the want of women was getting more and more felt in Amorha.

86. And this is natural. If the suspected clans will not preserve their daughters for marriage with other clans, those clans are not likely to give their daughters to the suspected clan; for marriage unfortunately is with them to some extent, a matter of profit, and a tribe cannot go on having all profit and no loss.

87. There ought to exist a natural dislike to marrying women to men of these suspected clans. Such a feeling may exist, but I have been unable to discover it.

88. The number of unmarried males above ten years of age among six of the suspected tribes in the suspected villages is surprising in a Hindoo community, amounting as it does to 41 per cent. of the whole.

89. This must lead by degrees to polyandry, or the evil of infanticide may work its own cure, from the want of girls felt, in time; but the progress towards such a consummation will, I fear, be slow.

90. A curious custom exists in Musohra, Pergunnah Ruttunpore Bansee, where the Sirneys allow their daughters to grow up to womanhood and do not allow them to get married.

91. Assuming the practice of female infanticide proven among certain tribes, the question arises whether it is on the increase or decrease. It appears to me to be pretty stationary.

92. One hundred and six villages were visited by Mr. Mooroo in 1856, which were visited by me in 1868. Mr. Moore found in those villages 1,213 boys and 326 girls, or 79 boys to 21 girls under six years of age.

93. In the present investigation were found in the same villages 1,638 boys and 428 girls, or a percentage of 79 boys to 21 girls—an identical result.

94. The crime, therefore, seems as rampant as before, and if the punitive measures recommended and approved in 1856 were then necessary, they are as much so now.

95. It is an atrocious evil, and the common Police Force is utterly incompetent to cope with it. Whether the crime be committed by means of opium, salt, placing the after-birth or cow-dung on the mouth, or by inanition, refusal to give the child milk, it is committed in secret, and suspicion of the act, not to talk of proof, rarely exists, and never reaches the Police Station. The crime is such as to demand a special agency.

96. On speaking to the most intelligent of the Brahmins and Thakoors of the District, I find that the most various schemes are proposed for the suppression of the evil—the formation of Punehayets to regulate the marriage expense—the deputation of a special Government Officer for the same purpose—the agency of the village midwife, of paid Chumarins, of a special Police force—the issue of a Governmental sumptuary law—the absolute prohibition of dowry; but one and all agree that agreements should be taken from all suspected villages not to practise the crime.

97. The last proposition is very childish, though the others contain, in the main, the elements embodied in the various indirect and direct measures hitherto adopted and proposed in other districts for the suppression of infanticide.

98. In Goruckpore hitherto no direct measures have been used. Mr. Moore, when investigating into the existence of the crime, used exhortation and remonstrance, and distributed pamphlets showing the atrocity and evil result of the crime among the people.

99. Mr. Halsey, who appears to have had great influence with the Rajpoots, is also said to have done much in remonstrating with the guilty tribes, but no direct measures were adopted. Mr. Moore's suggestions went considerably to form the basis of a Draft Act then drawn up, but the mutiny supervened, and nothing was done, and, as we now see, the evil is as great as before.

100. In 1864 a conference of the leading Rajpoots was held at Goruckpore for the purpose of curtailing marriage expenses. The Rajahs of Bansee and Bustee of this district were members of it, and most of the leading Rajpoot zemindars attended.

101. They agreed to certain conditions, but how have they kept them? I know no one who has acted up to the spirit of the meeting, except the Rajah of Bansee, a Sirneyt, who has married his nephew and four of his clansmen without accepting any dower.

102. In April last his son was married to the daughter of the Rajah of Bara, Zillah Allahabad, in the presence, it appears, of many Rajahs and wealthy men; he had accepted only one gold mohur in "Tilluk"; his procession was a comparatively small one, and he accepted no "Dahej." It is to be hoped that others will follow this good example. It is only unfortunate that his caste is not Soorujbuns instead of being Sirneyt.

103. I would apply the Act drafted by Messrs. Unwin and Raikes in 1856, with a slight alteration in the wording. I think it is amply sufficient, and, after much reflection, I have come to the conclusion that no better special agency than that proposed by Mr. Moore in paragraphs 241 to 245 of his report could be found.

From R. SIMSON, Esq., Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, to COMMISSIONER, Benares Division, 28th August, 1868.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 153, dated the 2nd ultimo, with which you submit a report by Mr. R. T. Hobart, on female infanticide in the Bustee District.

2. In reply, I am desired to forward, for your information, copy of a letter addressed to the Government of India on the subject.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor requests that the thanks of Government may be communicated to Mr. Hobart for the efficient manner in which he has carried into effect the instructions of Government. The judgment with which he conducted the investigation, and the full and complete manner in which he has reported it, are highly creditable to him.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor is gratified with the conspicuous example which the Rajah of Bansee, C.S.I., has set to other Rajpoot families in setting aside the prescriptive habits of extravagance at the marriage of his children, and has directed that a letter embodying an expression of this be communicated to him.

5. The other Rajpoot families, noticed in the report as belonging to clans that, as a rule, practise infanticide, but in which the proportion of daughters is such as to show that they are cared for from their birth, should also be informed that the Government has observed this with satisfaction.

From R. SIMSON, Esq., Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, to RAJAH LALL MOHENDER PURTAB SINGH, C.S.I., Rajah of Bansec, 28th August, 1868.

MY FRIEND,—It has been brought to the notice of the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor that, on the occasion of the marriage of your son with the daughter of the Bara Rajah, the wedding arrangements and festivities were carried out upon an economical and frugal scale.

2. His Honor has been much gratified with the conspicuous example which you have set to other Rajpoot families, in thus setting aside the prescriptive habits of extravagance at the marriage of their children, and trusts that it will be followed by others, and so lead to a diminution in the crime of infanticide, which at present prevails so largely and brings so much disgrace on the Rajpoot name.

From R. SIMSON, Esq., Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, to GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Home Department, 4th September, 1869.

WITH reference to the letter from this office, No. 346A., dated 27th August, 1868, I am directed to enquire whether there is any early prospect of the subject of the prevention of female infanticide being taken up by the Legislative Department.

2. Another year has passed since the Home Department were last addressed on this subject, and meanwhile the Lieutenant-Governor is unable, in the present state of the law, to take any efficient measures for coping with this great evil. It is of some practical importance to this Government to know whether it is intended to take up the subject legislatively or not.

From F. M. LIND, Esq., Commissioner, Agra Division, to OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, North-Western Provinces, 30th April, 1870.

I HAVE the honor to submit the accompanying letter, No. 34, dated 21st instant, from the Magistrate of Agra,

giving cover to a Memerandum on Female Infanticide by Mr. T. Bensen, Assistant Magistrate.

2. The enquiry, the result of which is reported by Mr. Benson, originated in Mr. Dashwood having heard of the Bill for the prevention of the murder of female infants, which has since become Act VIII. of the present year.

3. Mr. Bensen deserves great credit for the energy he has thrown into the task of enquiry. He has visited a very large proportion of the suspected villages, and, from personal and local enquiries, has obtained information which he has embodied in the tabular statements annexed to his memorandum.

4. The results shewn are indeed satisfactory. They show a gradual but certain decrease in the horrible crime of child murder. The care bestowed in the prosecution of enquiries is the best test of the accuracy of the returns.

5. There can, I think, be little doubt that the preventive measures inaugurated by Mr. Gubbins have in a large measure contributed to these successful results. At the same time I am inclined to think there are other causes at work, which are gradually but surely working a change in men's minds.

6. Impecuniosity and pride of family have hitherto been regarded as the leading motives for the commission of female infanticide. They generally go hand in hand: for the poorer the Thakor, provided he be of the pure stock, the greater will be his pride; the greater his inability to pay a dower for the marriage of his daughter among his own clansmen or with a higher caste, the greater will be the inducement of pride to make away with her; the reproach of having an unmarried daughter is more than his pride can resist.

7. Mr. Bensen, in paragraph 20 of his memorandum, assents to the fact that infanticide decreases in proportion to the diminution in marriage expenses. At the same time he argues, strangely enough, that any law for the regulation of marriage expenses must be imperfect or unnecessary.

8. I confess I should have thought his conclusion would have been in favor of such a law as Act VIII. of 1870; and so convinced am I of the necessity of beginning at the bottom of the ladder, that I have, for the last two years, in my annual tours, been impressing on the more respectable gentry the propriety of adopting measures among their clansmen for the curtailing of marriage expenses, as the only way of removing the great inducement to female infanticide. How far I have been successful, I cannot at present say, but I can state that the question of marriage expenses has been ventilated in a manner which has set people to think and to talk on the subject.

9. The barriers of prejudice are, I think, gradually and daily giving way to the progress of education and general enlightenment, and I hope the day is not far distant when Thakoors will yield their pride to a natural love of their offspring.

10. Repressive measures produce good results where the subjects of them are uninfluenced by the light of knowledge and reason, and where the dread of personal inconvenience and terror of the law are necessary considerations to secure compliance with the ordinary instincts of nature. The beneficial effects of these measures, suited as they were to the people to whom they were applied, are to be seen in Mr. Benson's Report.

11. I am not prepared to say that these measures should at the present time be suddenly withdrawn. I am inclined to agree with Mr. Benson in the propriety of their continuance, except perhaps in respect of the modification introduced by Mr. Hall in Pergunnah Bah Pinahut. They may gradually be relaxed at the discretion of the Magistrate hereafter, or they may be superseded by rules to be promulgated in accordance with Act VIII. of 1870. Some restraint must, however, be kept up.

12. In conclusion, I would bring to His Honor's notice the very creditable manner in which Mr. Benson has discharged the duty imposed upon him.

From H. W. DASHWOOD, Esq., Magistrate of Agra, to COMMISSIONER, Agra Division, 21st April, 1870.

IN December last, observing in the Newspapers a notice of the probable enactment of a law for the suppression of female infanticide, I thought it would be advisable to ascertain by positive enquiry to what extent the measures introduced many years ago by Mr. Gubbins in this district had been successful. I deputed Mr. T. Benson, Assistant Magistrate, on this duty. He has been engaged on it throughout the past cold weather, and the result of his labors is embodied in the accompanying report. I left the mode of enquiry very much to Mr. Benson's discretion, giving him only a brief memorandum of instructions, copy of which is annexed. Mr. Benson has executed this duty with his usual care and thoroughness; and the facts given in his interesting Report, and the conclusions drawn from these facts may, I think, be fully accepted.

2. There are 108 suspected villages in this district, viz.:—

In Pergunnah Bah Pinahut	...	...	51
„ Futtelhabad	...	...	16
„ Iradutnugger	...	...	19
„ Kheyragurh	...	...	14
„ Ferozabad	...	...	8

In four out of the five pergunnahs, Mr. Benson tested the Statistical Returns, which he called for from the local officials, by personal inspection of suspected villages. He had not time to visit Ferozabad; and, as we have for this pergunnah only paper returns to rely upon, it had better be omitted from our view.

3. Table A. attached to the Report, contains the pith of it. It will be seen that in Bah Pinahut, the percentage of girls has risen from 32.2 in 1854, to 40.2 in 1865, and 42.2 in 1869. In Futtelhabad the proportion is 43 per cent. in 1869 to 36 in 1854; and in Iradutnugger and Kheyragurh the proportions at the present date are 45 and 48 per cent. respectively. In 1854, they were 33 and 28 per cent. The result is certainly satisfactory.

4. But if we hesitate to accept as correct Returns drawn up by Putwarcoos, the result of personal inspection does not admit of doubt, and will be found in Table D. appended to the Report. The percentage of female children amongst children under twelve years of age was discovered to be three per cent. higher than by the Pantwaroo's Returns; and Mr. Benson shows in paragraph 18 of the Report how the small percentage of female children above 12 is quite consistent with the former existence, and present absence, or say diminution, of the crime of infanticide.

5. I refrain from noticing those paragraphs of the Report which relate to the continuance, whether in a modified or unmodified form, of the existing system. Act VIII. of 1870 has become law, and it is probable that the Government will call for the opinion of District Officers as to what measures to be enforced under that Act are best suited for each District. Mr. Benson's suggestions will then be taken into consideration.

Memorandum by H. W. Dashwood, Esq., dated 11th December, 1869.

As I see by the last *Friend of India* that a law is likely to be proposed on the subject of infanticide, I think some enquiry should be made as the result of the measures taken several years ago by Mr. Gubbins for the suppression of this crime. Mr. Drummond, who succeeded Mr. Gubbins, warmly supported those measures; but since his time the question has rather dropped out of sight, and should be taken up anew. We have now the census papers of 1865 to help us, and Putwarcoos keep up vital statistics which were not prepared in old days, and which, whether correct or the reverse, afford some clue to the real state of affairs. The villages suspected of the crime are mostly in Bah Pinahut, and that pargunnah can be taken up first.

1. The first point to be ascertained is whether the number of girls to be found in these villages is proportionate to the

population. Mr. Gubbins's Report gives the figures for each village in his day. Then we have the Census Return of each village for the year 1865, which should be in the Tehseel Office or with the Putwaree, and the Putwaree of each village should be called upon for a return of the existing number of boys and girls; this return should be tested by enquiries of the Lumberdars, and the Birth Returns for the past two, or three years given by the Putwarees should be looked to.

2. The next point is whether the preventive system started by Mr. Gubbins has been and is kept up in its integrity or not. I expect in some respects it has fallen into disuse; perhaps by express order, perhaps from want of attention. If the figured Returns show a satisfactory result, it may not be necessary to keep up the system as a whole, but to modify it in some respects.

Every endeavour should be made to ascertain whether the crime has really died out or decreased as is believed to be the case; and, if so, whether this has arisen from the preventive measures set on foot by Mr. Gubbins, or partly also from a change in the habits of the classes who practised the crime, such as decrease of marriage expenses, less regard to caste in marriage of daughters, and so forth. The Tehseel and Police officials who have been long resident in the Pergunnah, the Karindahs of large landowners, such as the Bhudawur Rajah, Rao Joteo Pershad, Rajah Dinkur Rao, Thakooranee Madho Kooer, and others, could give information on the subject, besides, of course, zemindars of suspected villages or of villages not suspected but adjacent to suspected villages.

I forgot to mention the Mortuary Returns which the Putwarees keep up. A comparison between male and female deaths among non-adults would be useful.

Report by T. BENSON, ESQ., Assistant Magistrate, on Female Infanticide in the Agra District, dated 18th April, 1870.

At the present time (1869-70) there are 108 villages in the Agra District under surveillance, as being suspected of

practising Female Infanticide. Of these 97 were placed under surveillance by Mr. Gubbins ; 11 have been added to the list since. In Bah Pinahut Pergunnah there are 51 vil-

* Rajora.
Bichola.
Min Danda. villages, including these 11 ; 3 villages* which were on Mr. Gubbins' list are now excluded.

In Futtehabad there are 16, in Irradutnuggur 19, in Khyragurh 14, and in Ferozabad 8, as in Mr. Gubbins' time.

2. The system of surveillance kept up is the same throughout the district, with the exception that in Bah Pinahut some important additions have been made. It consists in this that at every Police Station there is a list kept of the suspected villages within the circle. On the birth of a female child in any suspected family in any such village the Chowkeedar, who receives information from the Bulakir, is bound to proceed to the Thanah and report the fact ; he is often accompanied by the father or next representative of the child. In some cases the Chowkeedar reports any illness that befalls the child before it is six months old, but this is not, I think, universally carried out. In the event of such female child dying before it attains six months of age, the event is at once reported at the Police Station ; the officer in charge proceeds to the village and takes the statements of the "Panek," the "Dai" and father, or any other person affecting the inquiry, and then forwards the body and witnesses to the Deputy Magistrate of the Pergunnah, who, after holding an inquiry and inspecting the body, passes orders in the case, ordinarily concluding the inquiry and returning the body to the relatives for disposal. If any circumstances of suspicion existed, the body would be sent to the Civil Surgeon, and the case forwarded to the Magistrate having jurisdiction.

3. In Bah Pinahut, an important addition was made a few years ago to this procedure, by order, I believe, of Mr. Hall, when in charge of the Pergunnah. This order was that in every case the body, after the inquiry held by the Deputy Magistrate, should be forwarded to the Civil Surgeon at Agra

for examination. The relatives take the body, and is allowed to remove it after such examination. Another addition in this Pergunnah is that the Putwaree of each village is required to file monthly in the Tehseelee a return respecting the suspected families, showing the number of boys and girls under 1, 2 and 6 years existing in the village, and the number of births and deaths of such children during the month.

4. It would appear from this that the "preventive measures," as described by Mr. Gubbins, have been considerably modified. Engagements may have then been taken from the Zemindars, Chowkeedars, &c., but the memory of them even is extinct, and they do not appear to have been taken again on change of Zemindar, &c., &c. Again, except in Bah Pinahut, the Putwaree keeps up *no special register for these families*, nor does he furnish any monthly return to the Thanah. The Thanahdar does not abstract the result of the registration made in his office, or forward any return to the Magistrate. In fact there is no system working for showing the progress of the preventive measures, nor any system of testing the registration. The model system was soon discontinued (about 1855, I am led to believe). The form of returns in Bah Pinahut seems based on certain returns called for by Government in 1865.

5. Briefly, Mr. Gubbins' system of registry is kept up, but without provisions for testing its working or results; apparently it is supposed to have become a matter of habit. The one point where Mr. Gubbins' system has been amplified is in the ease of inquiry after death of a female child under six months; under his system the Thanahdar or Darogah could give a final order in the case; at present in all pergunnahs the case goes on to the Deputy Magistrate for order, and in Bah Pinahut the body is further always forwarded to the Civil Surgeon.

6. There is one important point of Mr. Gubbins' system which has certainly not been attended to. He says: "Upon the Chowkeedar's fidelity the enforcement of these measures mainly depends. He must belong to a different caste alto-

ther ; and the Musalman is found to sympathize least with child-murder." This has not apparently been heeded, as will be evident from a statement showing the castes of the Chowkeedars in the suspected villages. It becomes a monstrous absurdity when tho Chowkeedar who has to watch the offending Thakoors appears himself before you to answer inquiries as to the male and female children in his own family ; in 25 villages (out of 100) this anomalous state of affairs exists.

7. A description has been given of the system of surveillance now in force ; it remains to be considered what is the effect of that system ; does it maintain the improved state of things to which Mr. Gubbins' measures gave a start ?

8. To determine this, returns have been called for from the Putwarees of the several villages. They were required to furnish a return showing the number of suspected families, of boys and of girls at the census of 1865, the same particulars in 1869, the number of births, male and female, in these families in the years 1867, 1868, 1869, and the number of deaths of children, also the number of marriages of girls in those years. (In the Bah Pinahut Returns, the first called for, marriages of sons were also included, but were discontinued in the others.) Further, with a view to ascertaining the proportion which obtained in other castes between male and female children, returns were called for of the number of boys and girls in those villages belonging to other castes.

With a view to testing the returns of female births, the Thanahdars were required to furnish returns of the births reported at their stations during the years 1867-68-69.

9. As has been said, the Putwaree's returns for 1865 are supposed to have been based on the census papers ; for the number of existing boys and girls, I issued instructions that they should use the information on which they based their annual population return for 1276 Fuslee (sent in at October 1869). For the births and deaths, the Putwarees in Bah Pinahut had their special monthly returns to consult ; in the re-

maining Pergunnahs, Thakoors' births and deaths would have to be selected out of the general records.

10. A remark or two must be made on the way in which these returns are prepared, and the method of collecting the information on which they are based. In the first place, as to the number of suspected families, there is no distinct provision in Mr. Gubbins' rules that I can find as to register of the suspected families in suspected villages; albeit he says that one family in a village may practise, and another abhor infanticide,

* In Bhiloli in Khyragurh.

yet in only *one** out of eighty villages visited did I find any

family specially exempted from surveillance. There being no other guide, the Putwaree appears to make it his rule to enter every family which comes under the denomination of "Thakoor" on the list, without any regard to its belonging to a clan known to practice infanticide, or the reverse. "Family" is not used in the English sense, nor does it mean a "house" exactly; those who live "shamil," who eat together, form a "family," so that it may consist of two or three fathers of families, or of a single bachelor. In the next place, as to the definition of boys and girls: in Mr. Gubbins' lists they are those under 11 years of age. I called for returns of those under 12, but I do not feel certain that the Putwarees have uniformly stuck to this as a rule; however, approximately they have, no doubt. With respect to the girls there is a variety of practice: a girl may be married (in one sense, perhaps it might be called betrothed), as early as five, ordinarily the ceremony takes place between 7 and 10 years of age; but she does not leave her father's house to join her husband till she is from 10 to 13 years of age. With respect to these married girls, the Putwarees' practice differs; some strike the girl out of their lists as soon as she is betrothed, some not till she joins her husband; some retain them on their lists even after this if they are under 12; if they are over 12, and at home still, some Putwarees strike them off, some keep them on the list. With regard to the births and deaths, I believe that the people

themselves often neglect to report the event if it concerns a boy; but that, knowing the system in force, they are generally careful to report in the case of a girl.

11. With respect to the accuracy of these returns I am afraid nothing strikingly satisfactory can be said; as regards, indeed, the returns of present existing boys and girls, I think the returns are in the main and substantially correct; this will be further dealt with subsequently. So, too, the returns for 1865, excepting Pergunnah Ferozabad, in this particular seem correct. But as to the births and deaths it is different. In the first place, the figures show that in many villages the Putwarees must have included births and deaths of children of other castes, not only the suspected ones. This was notably obvious in the Iradutnuggur returns, but no change was made by the Putwarees, though they were sent back for correction. These errors are rendered obvious by comparing the total of female births reported at the Thannah with the Putwaree's return; they should tally exactly in the case of every village; as a fact, this result has seldom been obtained, but an approximate agreement does exist in some places.

	<i>Putwaree's Return.</i>	<i>Thannah Return.</i>	<i>Excess of Putwaree.</i>
Futtehabad	... 274	231	43
Iradutnuggur	... 573	244	329
Khyragurh	... 185	170	15
Ferozabad	... 218	124	94

Obviously Iradutnuggur returns are wrong; so, too, Ferozabad, considering that there are only 8 villages. In Futtehabad returns, I think the mistake is traceable to two villages. In Bah Pinahut, the returns from the Thannahs were incomplete, but an individual scrutiny of the villages does not show improbability in many cases, and the Thannah returns as far as they exist correspond fairly. As to the deaths of girls, the Thannah only gives those which occur under six months. Thus in—

Futtehabad, out of 162 reported by the Putwaree, 44 were under six months (by the Thannah return).

Iradutnuggur	...	...	...	313	66
Khyragurh	...	...	...	90	46
Futtehabad	...	...	...	85	44

With respect to those cases where other castes have been included, of course the mistake extends to the returns concerning boys, so that the proportions will not be generally wrong, only they will not clearly show the proportions amongst Thakoors only.

12. And now, taking these returns for what they are worth, do they show favorable results? Does the percentage of girls existing appear a fair one? Is the mortality amongst girls, the proportion of deaths to births amongst them as compared with boys, at an average rate or otherwise?

13. Ordinarily, one would think that girls should about equal boys in number, and as the total birth returns for these villages show that an equal number of boys and girls are born, this idea is somewhat confirmed. At the same time when it is found that the proportion obtaining in other castes in the same villages (taking the whole district) is 43 girls in 100 children, we can hardly expect to find 50 per cent. of girls

* *Vide his report on female infanticide.* amongst Thakoors. Mr. Moore,* finding that the average proportion was 52 boys to 48 girls, but that even amongst "non-infanticide" villages it was sometimes as low as 58 boys to 42 girls, decided that when there were 60 boys to 40 girls there was good ground for supposing infanticide to exist; but as a limit he decided to rank as suspected villages those wherein the proportion fell below 35 girls to 65 boys.

This perhaps is a point which should rather be brought in when determining the case of each particular village; we may, however, take it that if there are on an average 40 girls to 60 boys or above that, affairs are not very bad.

14. An inspection of a comparative return with percentages of the number of boys and girls existing in 1854 (January), after Mr. Gubbins' system had been two and a half years in full swing, in 1865, and in 1869 respectively, shows that, whereas in 1854 the percentage of girls was only 33·4, it had risen in 1865 to 41·4 (or 41·1), and is now 43·3 ; this would imply a steady progress, and a satisfactory result ; and when it is considered that in June in 1851, when Mr. Gubbins began his system, there were 1,100 less girls than there were in 1854, and that the percentage must have been some 23 per cent. only, it seems obvious that he dealt such a violent blow at this evil practice as to crush it at once, and set on foot a new and better order of things, which has progressed steadily ever since. The progress appears to have been gradual in each pargannah, the great rise being in every case, except Futtehabad, in the long period 1854 to 1865, and the rise since then being comparatively slight. The rise in Khyragurh, where the proportion has risen to 48 per cent., is greatest. Ferozabad alone seems not to have progressed sensibly, the proportion being still as low as 37·3 per cent., only 1·3 higher than it was in 1854.

15. It will not fail to attract attention that though the number of families have increased by above 570 since 1854, and girls by 1,150, the number of boys has decreased by about 150. This does not seem natural, and, except that for other reasons, which will be detailed below, I believe the present returns to be right, would tend to throw suspicion on them as "evoked" for the present enquiry, more especially as the decrease is on the whole since 1865 ; whereas the births of boys have been equal to those of girls in 1867-68-69, and the mortality slightly lower. However, even were we to suppose boys had increased, the total could not reasonably be put much above 5,300 instead of 4,888, and this would make the proportion of girls still about 40 per cent.

Ferozabad returns, owing to the mistakes as to 1865, cannot be discussed, but of the other pargannahs it will be

noticed that decrease in boys is represented as taking place in Bah Pinahut and Futtahabad between 1865 and 1869. In Futtahabad the decrease is very great, but there is also a decrease in girls in the same period. In Iradutnuggur and Khyragurh the decrease is represented as accruing between 1854 and 1865; it is rather large in Khyragurh. These circumstances could not fail to attract attention and required notice.

I will now detail my reasons for believing the results as now stated to be substantially correct. This is the one important point to be looked at.

16. With a view to testing the actual existing state of affairs, I have endeavoured to visit the suspected villages. Owing to the extent and inaccessibility of the pergannah, and also to want of time (as I did not receive instructions to take up this subject till I had nearly completed my tour), I only visited 32 of the 51 villages in Bah Pinahut; in Futtahabad I visited 15 (*i. e.*, all except one); in Iradutnuggur 19, all; and in Khyragurh 13, all except one. I have not visited Ferozabad at all, and so have no personal knowledge of the 7 Ahir and one Chowhan villages which it contains; the Putwarees' returns are the only authority. In all, 79 out of 108 villages have been visited. In visiting these villages it was primarily my object to find out the number of male and female children existing; for this purpose I had the fathers of suspected families collected, and questioned them as to their families. I took families in the English sense, strictly the children of one father, and arranged my results accordingly. Each man was asked how many sons and daughters he had, and then to detail their ages; these I arranged in 4 classes—sons above and under 12, and daughters married, or above 12, and under 12, unmarried. I found this four-fold division very useful subsequently. Relations were allowed to speak for their relations when they appeared to have knowledge. In this way I got results which were to a certain extent independent of the Putwaree; in Pin-

but and Futtelhabad it was very much so, as the returns there had not been prepared; in the other two pergunnahs the Putwaree had prepared his returns, so that my work was more in the nature of testing his lists, and, my object being understood, I had a better attendance of Thakoors and a more complete scrutiny. Of course it was open to the people to make false statements to me, but, for reasons which I need not detail, I am of opinion that they told the truth to the best of their ability; where I did regularly test the Putwaree's lists, I found them, as a rule, correct or nearly so.

17. Taken as a whole, the result of my personal inquiries would be more favorable than that shown by the Putwaree's returns; for on my calculations the percentage of female children amongst children under 12 years of age is 46.7, or 3 per cent. higher than the Putwaree's returns. However, it must be recollectcd that my inquiries did not embrace every single case, and when families were absent from my inquiries care was probably taken that all who had daughters at least should be present; besides, in all I only examined 2,710 families, probably about half the whole number; this is obvious also by comparing the totals of children, male and female, under 12. In Pinahut my return is much more favorable; in Khyragurh and Futtelhabad slightly less; in Iradutnuggur as nearly as possible the same.

18. It will appear how small the percentage of daughters is in children above 12; this is perfectly and entirely consistent with the prior existence of infanticide, and its present removal; the sons and daughters above 12 have all been born before 1857, and the majority of course before 1851. Naturally the number of daughters amongst them is small, whilst amongst children born since 1857 we find a fair proportion of daughters.

19. Besides the direct evidence of the decrease of infanticide derived from the existence of such a fair proportion of girls, we have other indirect means of judging; for instance (acting on the supposition that the system of registration

works), a comparison of the number of deaths to births amongst girls with that amongst boys should tell us whether there is suspicious amount of mortality in the former. The statements show that the number of births in either sex being equal (which would point to fair registration); the number of deaths amongst girls is slightly higher, and the mortality consequently greater by 1·5 per cent. This does not seem to me to indicate anything suspicious or alarming; nay, further, it allays any doubts which might be caused by the frequent recurrence of the verdict on corpses of female infants, that it refused milk and died in consequence. And, be it remarked, this is the utmost that is suspected now-a-days: the most suspicious persons only say that they think girls are occasionally disposed of by a slow process of starvation, by not being suckled.

20. Again, that the Thakoors kill their female infants is no longer a by-word; official and non-official persons, parties independent and interested, all agree in stating that the evil practice has decreased, if not entirely died out, under the system. It is a matter of general opinion, too, that marriage expenses have diminished; this, of course, is the consequence and result of the system; girls have been born, they have had to be married, and proud fathers have had to reduce their standard; having once done so, it is easy enough, if not pleasanter, to keep to the new rule, and the motivo which kept up the "custom" of infanticide, viz., the desire to avoid expense, is diminished, if not destroyed; but that any good can be done towards putting down infanticide by legislating as to marriage expenses, by trying to define a perfectly indefinite amount varying in every case, seems to me an utterly mistaken idea, and altogether beginning at the wrong end. In any case it seems impracticable: if a solitary measure, inefficient, and if combined with registration, unnecessary.

21. Marriages of Thakoor girls are no rare events. In the last year of scarcity (1868-69) such occurrences were few, but now in the spring of the present year (1870) many "shadis" are going on amongst Thakoor families.

22. With respect to the reduction of marriage expenses, it is hard to say exactly how it has been effected, but it appears to me probable that the relinquishment of the practice of seeking high connections in distant places has had a good deal to do with it. To fetch the bridegroom from any distance, from anything above two or three days' journey, considerably adds to the expense. The Thakoors who still contract distant alliances are the prouder clans of the Bhar-dewariyas, such as the Kullheyas and Acheyas ; they do not like to give their daughters except to the Jadons of Karaoli, the Kuchwaias of Jaipore, or the Sikurwars of Gwalior ; consequently their marriages are still expensive and attended with difficulty. These distant tribes have no scruples about asking a large dowry ; they have no daughters to dispose of to render them accommodating. *Per contra*, I found that the Sikurwars of Khyragurh had relinquished the practice of marrying their daughters to the Jadons ; the latter were too exigent, and a marriage could not possibly cost less than Rs. 1,000 ; they therefore contented themselves with alliances with the neighbouring Panwars of Jugnor, and Jonwars of Dholpore, and in the case of the former the principle of mutual accommodation would come into play, they too having daughters to be married. Such marriages, as also marriages amongst the Thakoors of Bah Pinahut, Jonwars, Purihars and Bharde-wariyas could be managed for Rs. 200, divided somewhat as follows :—

“Lagan”	...	...	Rs. 40
“Darwaza” or Barothi	...	„	40
“Ankmalli” (presents, &c.)		„	40
Feeding the Barât	...	„	80
<hr/>			
Total, Rs. 200			

This would be the lowest expense on an average for a decently-conducted affair ; but in every case, as always, so now, the expense depends on the bride's father's means. To spend a good deal is probably thought something of; accordingly the

expense is exaggerated. A man told me he had spent Rs. 3,000 on his daughter's wedding; I learnt subsequently it only cost half as much. I have stated Rs. 200, but some say it can be done for Rs. 100 or Rs. 150. When a man is hard pressed he gets his friends and relations to contribute. That the bride's father should receive money from the bridegroom is no doubt esteemed a disgrace amongst these pure Thakoor clans; still some declared the practice did prevail, though others denied it entirely. There is one form of marriage, "dhurm byah," or marriage made "hath jorkur," to which men who are almost paupers have resort, getting the bridegroom to pay trifling expenses—Rs. 10, Rs. 20, or Rs. 30. This is not considered disgraceful.

It is asserted that the spurious clans, which are principally in Futtehabad and Iradutnuggur, forming the bulk of suspected Thakoors there, have very generally adopted this practice of taking dower from the bridegroom. Considering that their women are not "purdanushieen," and that they intermarry amongst each other, never having to go far for husbands, it seems strange they ever should have practised infanticide, but there is no doubt that they did.

23. There only remains one point, *viz.*, the advisability of discontinuing or modifying the "preventive measures."

24. If it is decided to modify them, it will be necessary to take the case of each village individually, with a view to determining its fitness for release; this will more probably be done in a separate report; meanwhile, I would just pay attention to the very favorable result exhibited by the perfect villages which were put on the suspected list after Mr. Gubbins' time; there would not appear to be any infanticide among them; indeed, 3 of them are inhabited by a clan, Rawats, which are not even mentioned by Mr. Gubbins as a suspicious tribe, and some of the others are a clan of Bhardewas. Rawats, known to be not so greatly addicted to the practice were

The villagers themselves say they were put on the suspected list after the mutiny by the then Thannadar of

one Rahman Khan, Nawab of Ferozabad, who acted under the influence of his clerk, one Buldeo Salai.

25. But, though the results obtained are so far satisfactory that we have an average of 43 per cent. of girls throughout the district in the suspected villages, I do not think this state of affairs warrants at any rate the entire withdrawal of the system in all villages which come up to that mark, and for this reason the result has only just been obtained. Twenty years ago infanticide was rife, and a generation has not yet passed; we can hardly expect the Thakoors of to-day to have become so accustomed to rearing and providing for daughters, or so entirely to have forgotten the traditional custom of infanticide, as that it would be impossible for them to return to their old ways if the restraint were withdrawn. It seems to me that some special supervision should be kept up for say twenty years more; by that time perhaps the custom of female infanticide will have been so entirely eradicated that to rear and cherish female infants will be a rule of habit incapable of infraction. The only question is how much supervision should be maintained. The system in force has been described. I should imagine it might be relaxed, say in villages where we have 40 per cent. or more of girls, by the withdrawal of the severer and more annoying part; not that I consider the villagers have any right to complain, for many of those who committed the crime are still alive, and apart from that it is but just retribution that a sin of such magnitude should be visited upon the heads of the children of those who committed it. However, no doubt the system of inquest, of which I often received complaints, must be in many cases annoying, if not painful; the father, a proud Thakoor who has to take his daughter's body in a basket on his head from the village to the Thannah, say, two or three kos off, and thence to the Deputy Magistrate's office, perhaps another 10 or 12 kos, and after that, as in Pinahut, another 18 kos or more to Agra, and then to wait till it is examined, cannot but be put to considerable ignominy and hardship, besides being by his religion obliged

to abstain from food for three or four days, and in the end having to perform the funeral rites over what is nothing but a putrid mass. For these reasons I think the amplified system of inquest now in vogue might be abolished or modified. True, it is at present the one deterrent measure which supports the system, and Thakoor Benee Purshad, Deputy Magistrate, was of opinion that for this reason it should not be withdrawn (that is to say, as it existed in Futtahabad and other Pergunnahs not including Bah Pinahut); on the other hand, the inquiry is open to the charge of being simply "mamooli," and that the verdict is stereotyped, being just what the "dai" may say; besides, under the new Infanticide Law, it will be possible to punish omissions of registration, which will afford a means of providing for the effectual carrying out of the rules.

26. I am therefore of opinion that the present form of inquest might be dispensed with in the case of those villages which show a fair proportion, say 40 per cent., of girls; an inquest held by the Officer in charge of the Police Station, he viewing the body, might be deemed sufficient. Probably such an Officer could not spare the time from his regular duties to visit the villages for this purpose, but it would never be a very great hardship for the parties to have to go to their own Thannah. Were a special Police force entertained for the suppression of the crime, the work would of course be done through them. With villages not showing so good a proportion, the stricter system, involving an inquiry before the Deputy Magistrate, might be kept up till they could show a permanent improvement. In all cases the registration of female births and deaths under six months at the Thannahs should be kept up, and it appears to me that abstracts of these returns should be furnished periodically, in order both to judging progress and maintaining efficiency and carefulness on part of the recording Officer; it also appears to me that, for the purpose of testing and comparison, similar returns to those prepared in Pinahut should be filed every month by

the Putwaree of every suspected village. In this way progress could be judged, and the comparison of totals between the returns furnished by Putwarces and Police Officers would afford means of detecting omissions, and thereupon applying the penalties for non-registration.

27. With respect to those villages which have not made such progress, and in which the proportion of girls is under 40 per cent., I certainly think that in them the system should be kept up in integrity and with care ; the full registration should be made, and the inquiry before the Deputy Magistrate continued. This remark touches the case of Ferozabad, where 8 villages have only raised their proportion of girls from 36 to 37.3 per cent. since 1854, and there are scattered villages in other pargannahs similarly situated. If, however, it were held that 35 per cent. was a sufficiently high proportion to exempt from strict supervision, then there would be very few villages which would call for it, but I do not see why 40 per cent. should not be made the standard.

28. I have alluded above* to the indiscriminate method
 * *Fiz.*, in Paragraph 10. in which all Thakoors in the villages suspected are put down as suspected families. Thus we have Thakoors of Furrah, Bhuggut of Gwalior, Bais, Gullots, under supervision; that is to say, scattered families of them living in the villages of their connections by marriage (laying themselves open to be called "sala" and "susar"). I do not know whether some order should not be given respecting these Thakoors, and others in similar case, being put on the list or not. So, too, is it often the case that a particular *nugla* (hamlet) of a village makes the percentage of a whole village appear bad, it alone being to blame; or that one *nugla* which is to blame is saved by the rest. These are all pure matters of detail, which can only be dealt with as individual cases, but it is as well to call attention to them.

From C. A. ELLIOTT, ESQ., Officiating Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, to COMMISSIONER, Agra Division, dated 25th May, 1870.

I AM directed by the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor to acknowledge the receipt of a report dated 18th April, by Mr. Benson, submitted with your address of the 30th idem, on the effect of Mr. M. R. Gubbins' system in arresting the crime of infanticide in the Agra District.

2. The report has come most opportunely, and His Honor has perused it with unmixed satisfaction. The memory of Mr. Gubbins may well be cherished by the Thakoors of Agra as that of a great benefactor. When he began to enforce his rules, the proportion of girls to boys was but as 23 to 67; it has gradually risen, and is now as 43·3 to 56·7.

3. No doubt these figures contain, as has been shown by Mr. Benson, certain elements of error; but there is no reason to question that they exhibit with very sufficient accuracy the general result, and this has been substantially proved by the enquiries made by Mr. Benson in person from village to village.

4. Of the entire number of suspected villages, Mr. Benson visited 80, containing 2,710 families under surveillance. The number of girls under 12 years of age was found to be 1,872, to 2,124 boys, or nearly 47 per cent.; while of girls over 12 there were but 1,156 to 2,298 boys—a remarkable contrast, the result of bygone infanticide. The evil, though no doubt still lingering with prescriptive malignity in some villages and hamlets, has been in great measure successfully grappled with, and to a large extent crushed out.

5. Thus a noble example is set before the District Officers of the present day; and they may now proceed to work in the hope and faith that the same success will attend their labours.

6. A collection of papers on infanticide has already been circulated among District Officers in preparation for further proceedings under the Infanticide Act on the part of Government. Among these are extracts from Mr. Gubbins's own

account of his system. The present forms a suitable sequel, and will be similarly circulated.

7. I am to request that the thanks of the Lieutenant-Governor may be communicated to Mr. Benson for the thorough and able manner in which he has conducted this inquiry, and the intelligent report of its result. Mr. Dashwood also deserves commendation for his timely deputation of Mr. Benson, and the sound instructions by which he guided him.

From T. W. RAWLINS, Esq., late Assistant Magistrate of Allahabad, to OFFICIATING MAGISTRATE, Allahabad, dated 18th April, 1870.

I HAVE the honor to inform you that, in compliance with your request, I made a careful enquiry during the last cold season as to the practice of female infanticide by the Rajpoot clans of the Bara Pergunnah in this District; and I now submit my report on the subject.

1. Owing probably to the destruction of Government records during the mutiny, I have been unable to obtain any accurate data as to the extent to which the crime prevailed in former years, and the success which had attended the efforts to put it down before the mutiny. All that can be clearly ascertained is that, while carrying on Settlement operations in Bara in 1839, Mr. Montgomery made the discovery that it was practiced to an alarming extent by the Parihar, the Kuchhwaha, and the Bhurdewariya clans; and that, finding remonstrance of no use, he instituted a system of check under which a chuprassee was placed for the purpose in each suspected village; the goreyt, the chowkeedar and the village mid-wife were bound to report the birth of every female child at the Thannali; and the Thannahdar, in company with the Tehsildar, was required to hold an inquest on it, should it die; and afterwards to send the body to the Civil Surgeon for examination.

2. So successful was this system found to be, that, while in 1840, the first year in which it was tried, only three female infants among the guilty clans survived their birth, there

were fourteen alive at the end of 1841, and twenty-eight at the end of 1842. From the latter date until the mutiny I have been unable to obtain any statistics, for the Census Returns of 1853 make no distinction between the suspected and other castes, or between children and adults of either sex; but there is reason to believe that Mr. Montgomery's system was carried out with considerable care.

3. After the restoration of order no steps appear to have been taken to re-introduce a system of surveillance until 1864, when Mr. Ricketts, who was then Magistrate, appointed a special native officer for that purpose. It is that officer's duty to keep a careful watch over every pregnant Rajpootnee of the suspected clans, through the agency of the village midwives and chowkeedars, and, should she give birth to a female infant, personally to assure himself of its existence until it be past the age of danger. The results of these observations have been regularly forwarded to the Magistrate in the shape of a fortnightly report. This system had not been in force sufficiently long when the census was taken in 1865 to have had any effect on the practice, did it then exist; but the returns of that year, exhibiting as they do a population of 438 female Rajpoot children to one of 567 male children in the Bara Pergunnah, compared with the state of things discovered by Mr. Montgomery in 1839, show what a great reform had been brought about in the interval.

4. Before commencing my inquiries, I caused an extract from the last Census papers to be prepared, showing, in respect of each of the 112 villages in which Rajpoots had been enumerated, the number of male and of female children of the Rajpoot and of other castes respectively. I then had separate Hindee forms prepared for each village, in which the Putwarees were directed to record with care the name of the head of each separate household, the number of boys and girls born since the mutiny which it contained, the number of girls who had been married since that time, the cost of each marriage, and the number of unmarried adult males and

females. After these forms were returned to me I allowed some time to elapse in order that, if they were incorrectly filled in for the purpose of deception, it might be supposed that the enquiry was at an end, and so the exact return made in each case might be forgotten. I then visited each of the villages, and, with the extract from the Census papers and the Putwaree's return in my hand, called together the zemindars and the Rajpoot community, and filled in afresh the whole of the form that had been supplied to the Putwarees. I did not insist, as other officers have done in similar enquiries, on the production of all the girls enumerated. I had chosen the mutiny year as a conspicuous landmark, as a parent would seldom be unable to remember whether a child had been born before or after it, but they might in many cases have felt a strong objection to my seeing a girl 12 years of age ; and this feeling would have induced them either to omit all mention of their elder girls, and thus falsify the returns, or to attempt to pass off as Rajpootnes the children of other castes. But although I did not insist upon the production of the girls, I saw great numbers of them casually ; and I fully believe that the returns I have obtained are correct. The possession of the Putwaree's returns was an invaluable check. In most cases the numbers obtained by me differed from them ; but almost invariably, on my enquiring into the reason of this, I found that it was due to a misapprehension of the meaning of some of the columns in the form, and not to any *mala fides* on the part of either parents or Putwaree. In the same way my return often differed in a marked manner from the Census extract; but, on enquiring into the births and deaths of children since 1865, the discrepancies were with scarcely an exception naturally accounted for. Lastly, the whole population of the village was generally present, and the natural way in which a parent, while enumerating his family, would be corrected by his neighbours, and even by his own children, and the arguments that would thereupon follow—all convinced me that there was no attempt made to throw dust in my eyes.

An abstract of the statistics is shown in the following table :—

No. of villages.	No. of clans.	No. of families.	No. of Rajpoot boys.	No. of Rajpoot girls.	No. of marriages since mutiny.	No. of unmarried adult Rajpoots.	No. of unmarried adult Rajpoots.	Present Percentage of Rajpoot girls.	Percentage at census of Rajpoot girls.	Percentage at census of girls of other castes.
93	35	503	429	412	232	318	57	48.97	43.88	43.98

5. It is a remarkable fact that the Purihars, the Bhurdewariyas and the Kueliwalias, who were formerly the most notorious for the crime, now show such a high percentage of girls ; and, had I not carried on the enquiry myself, I might have inferred that they had intentionally given an incorrect return of the number of their female children, in order to divert suspicion ; but I was especially careful in testing the returns of these clans. Moreover, if there had been any general wish among them to falsify the returns, it might have been expected that it would be shown in a general tendency through all villages and families to put the number of girls at a higher figure than that of boys. The contrary of this is the case : in most cases the number of girls is about equal or a little less than that of boys, and has been swelled by a few exceptional cases in which the girls of a family greatly outnumbered the boys.

6. The number of girls married since the mutiny is 247. I have noted the approximate cost of each of these marriages in the village returns. I have shown the average cost of each in the different clans in each village ; but I have not attempted to deduce the average cost through the pergannah or through the whole of each clan, as the disturbing influence of a few very expensive marriages would have destroyed their value. A reference to the original returns, however, will show that, while a considerable number of even the more exclusive tribes were able to dispose of their daughters without a dowry at a cost for food of less than Rs. 50 each, the vast majority of marriages cost less than Rs. 250.

7. In connection with the number of marriages that have occurred, it is interesting to notice the number of unmarried adults, male and female. Of the former there are 343, of the latter 57. These figures would at first sight lead one to suppose that the crime of infanticide had not even been checked ; but when it is observed that the vast majority of the adult males are elderly men, the brothers or uncles of the heads of families, while with scarcely an exception the females were their daughters or nieces, this very disproportion of the sexes affords a proof of the reformation that has been effected in the last thirty years. Most of the men are those who, born before the introduction of preventive measures, were unable to obtain wives, owing to the destruction of their contemporaries of the other sex ; while nearly all the women have been born since 1839, and are not probably very much fewer in number than the unmarried men born since that year.

8. The fact that there are 57 unmarried Rajpoot women (15 of whom belong to the three clans), is in itself a strong proof that the crime of female infanticide has for many years past been on the decline, and the readiness with which the fact has been admitted, shows that to a great extent at least a Rajpoot has ceased to regard the existence of an unmarried daughter as an indelible stain upon his family. The crime, so long on the decline, has now, I believe, almost ceased to exist as a practice in Bara ; for, although cases of the murder of female infants have been known to occur within the last four or five years, the motives for the crime were such as would have led to the murders were the children male. All classes in the pergannah, while they unite in admitting the former prevalence of the crime, say that it is now a thing of the past ; and it is rather a significant fact that one of the few girls' schools in the district has been set up at Manpore, which contains the largest Rajpoot population of any village in the pergannah, including thirty families of Purihars, and is largely attended by their girls.

From C. A. ELLIOTT, Esq., Officiating Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, to COMMISSIONER, Allahabad Division, dated 20th May, 1870.

I AM directed by the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 11th instant, with which you submit a report by Mr. Rawlins, prepared at the instance of the Magistrate, Mr. J. C. Robertson, on the result of measures for checking the crime of infanticide among the Rajpoot tribes of Pergunnah Bara, in the Allahabad District.

2. Following the similar report of Mr. Benson for Agra, this paper possesses, especially at the present moment, a peculiar value, and like it, will be circulated among all District Officers.

3. The preventive measures introduced by the Magistrate, Mr. R. Montgomery, above 30 years ago, very much resemble those adopted at a later period and over a larger area by Mr. Gubbins in the Agra District. The success is shown to have been marvellous. In the first year, 1840, "only three female infants among the guilty clans survived their birth;" in 1841, there were 14; and in 1842, no less than 28 female children alive. From that date there are no means of tracing progress till the Census of 1865, when we find among the same clans no fewer than 438 girls, forming 44 per cent. of the child population.

4. The returns were recently tested in person by Mr. Rawlins, and, so far as the means at his disposal went, their general accuracy was proved beyond doubt. In 93 villages that officer found 412 girls under 12 years, to 429 boys, showing the percentage of girls to be 49; and, what is most striking, in the three clans, Kucliwalia, Bhuridewariya and Purihar, formerly the most notorious for infanticide, the girls now exceed the boys, the percentages being 69, 63, and 56 respectively.

5. Perhaps the most encouraging feature in these proceedings is the evidence that a system effectively enforced takes

root and holds its ground. The habit once broken in the Bara Pergunnah showed no tendency to revive, even when the repressive agency was discontinued.

6. Mr. George Ricketts, C.B., deserves much credit for re-introducing the system in 1864; but the Census Returns following immediately after, and now shown to have been substantially accurate, afford full proof that, quite independently of Mr. Ricketts' measures, the crime had ceased to be prevalent.

7. These most gratifying results are therefore mainly due to the rules put in force by Sir Robert Montgomery in 1839. Equally with Mr. Gubbins does Sir Robert Montgomery thus stand in the light of a benefactor of the Thakoor race, and it will now be a proud and grateful reflection to that distinguished philanthropist to hear that the result of his remote labours has been to prevent the annual sacrifice, during these many years, of some forty female infants, and to eradicate almost the memory of the crime.

8. Very remarkable also is the presumption raised by these papers, that, if female infants are once saved, provision for them by marriage and reduction of marriage expenditure follow as a natural consequence. There are in the pergunnah 57 unmarried adult women, but the possession of an unmarried daughter is said no longer to be viewed as a disgrace. It is observable that there are no less than 343 adult bachelors; but these are for the most part elderly men, belonging to a period when the girls who, if spared, would have been eligible for their wives, were destroyed at their birth.

9. Such are the results of purely preventive arrangements. It will be interesting to ascertain what has been the corresponding effect of the indirect measures resorted to elsewhere in the limitation of marriage expenses. The subject may advantageously be enquired into, and results shewn, by Mr. Lane, in reference to the system introduced into Mysore by Mr. Charles Raikes, C.S.I.

10. I am to request that the thanks of the Lieutenant-Governor may be conveyed to Mr. Rawlins for his careful investigation and excellent report.

11. His Honor requests that you will report more in detail regarding the "Special Native Officer" nominated by Mr. Ricketts to the duty of checking the births and deaths of Rajpoot infants in this pargannah, what his pay is, and how defrayed. The other duties by the Goreyt, Chowkeedar and midwife are, it is presumed, performed without further pay as a part of their village duties.

*From W. LANE, Esq., Officiating Magistrate of Mynpoory, to
OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, North-Western Provinces, dated 2nd June, 1870.*

I HAVE the honor to reply to your letter No. 165, of 24th May, 1870, calling for a report on the results of the measures taken for the repression of infanticide in the Mynpoory District, with special reference to the indirect system introduced by Mr. C. Raikes in the year 1851.

2. So fully and so ably has the whole subject been discussed on previous occasions, that little more can now be required than a brief review of the practice as it was formerly known to exist in this district; the measures adopted at various times to meet the evil, and the results attained by those measures as evinced by the present state of native feeling on the subject; and the statistics, as far as available, of the female population.

3. Foremost in connection with Mynpoory stand the names of Messrs. Unwin and Raikes, whose exertions extended over the period from 1843 to 1855. To those Officers belong the credit of the first real attempts made to stop this long established custom.

4. About the same time, or rather contemporaneously with Mr. Raikes, commenced the efforts of Mr. Gubbins in the neighbouring District of Agra; but the evil was first brought to light in Mynpoory, and here was the system first introduced that has since borne so much fruit.

5. The plan adopted in both instances was nearly identical, *viz.*, the compulsory registration of the births and deaths of female infants in the Thakoor families, the information to be rendered by the village watchman; the surveillance of the Police, and the examination by a Medical Officer of the bodies of such infants as died from other than natural or well-distinguished causes.

6. The only additional precaution that seems never to have obtained here was that of a registration by Putwarces also. These Officers keep up the usual Mortuary Returns of all classes, but seem never to have kept any special Register for Chouhan Thakoors.

7. Mr. Unwin was succeeded by Mr. Raikes, and the measures already set on foot were perseveringly continued. But the most prominent direction taken by the latter Officer was an endeavour to lessen the extravagant expenses usually attending the weddings of Thakoor brides. This, as is well known, is the chief cause of the destruction of their female infants by these castes.

8. If the ruinous costs attending the marriage ceremonies could be lessened, and a more moderate dowry for the bride generally assented to, it appeared to Mr. Raikes that the main cause of this practice would be taken away, and the custom gradually die out of itself.

9. As long as Mr. Raikes was here to give his personal influence in support of the arrangements then agreed to, success seems to have been to a certain extent attained. Theoretically, the system he advocated was both rational and calculated to attain the object he had in view; but manifestly, as then introduced, it was lacking in one of the main elements essential to success—it was of a purely local character.

10. However ready the resident clans may have been for reform, and however genuine their adherence to the proposals made, they were impotent to impress their views on distant families, who would manifestly be losers thereby. Supposing, for instance, the case of a husband being sought from among

them for a Mynpoory bride. So long as the assenting parties to Mr. Raikes's scheme were content to intermarry among themselves the object in view might be fully attained, but directly an alliance was sought for a Mynpoory lady out of that circle, the old difficulty would immediately re-appear.

11. Mr. Raikes's local effort, therefore, never took real root in the District, and appears to have been dropped altogether as soon as the author's personal influence was withdrawn. I find no results, therefore, apparent now.

12. During the past year, 1869, Rajah Rampartab Singhi, the head of the Mynpoory Thakoors, married his sister to the Bhadawur Rajah of the Agra District; the same story as of old,—a marriage made to connect the family with one of still higher rank; what Mr. Gubbins would have called an "unequal marriage." It had consequently to be paid for in proportion. The bride's family say the total cost did not fall much below a lakh and a half of rupees. Allowing that this may be an exaggeration, yet an expenditure amounting to one-half even of that figure must have told severely on the Rajah's present resources. There was no actual dowry (badun) fixed, I believe; but besides the presents voluntarily sent, the Bhadawur Chief took whatever met his fancy when he came here for his bride, and there was practically no limit to what might have been annexed by him but the exhaustion of the means of the bride's family or the good taste of the bridegroom himself.

13. I think, then, I have sufficiently answered the reference as to what were the results of the "indirect measures" introduced by Mr. Raikes to lessen infanticide by the reduction of marriage expenses.

The permanent effects were practically *nil*. Many more marriages doubtless take place now than formerly, because there is a much larger female population to provide for; but there is no attempt apparent towards economy in the matter, nor any recollection of engagements once entered into with that object.

14. Whatever has been effected in the cause of infant preservation I attribute almost entirely to the "preventive arrangements" primarily introduced into this district by Mr. Unwin, and carried on by Mr. Raikes side by side with his other "indirect measures" above alluded to. The latter died out, but the former have been persevered in with more or less energy by his (Mr. Unwin's) successors up to the present time.

15. I will now briefly allude to what those results have been, and compare them with what was found to exist some 27 years ago.

Mynpoory is pre-eminently a Thakoor District. In various parts are to be found Chonhans, Rathors, Bais and others, aggregating in all some 23 divisions.

The Census gives no details of their numbers, but they must compose a considerable fraction of the whole population.

16. It is to the Chouhan tribes that this report has special reference; for though infanticide prevails more or less among the Aheer Phatueks of the western portion, yet the numbers of these classes are few as compared with the Chouhan Thakoors, and the crime has never been so general among them.

17. Chouhans are thickly spread over the central and eastern parts of this district. They are well descended, and proud of their standing. The head of this caste, the Mynpoory Rajah, boasts of a descent from the celebrated Pirthi Raj, and his exalted rank is admitted on all sides.

It is supposed that they number some 70,000 to 80,000 souls, though there is no very good data to go upon with regard to this.

18. In 1843, it is recorded that not a single female Chouhan infant was to be found in the district. In 1845, thanks to the exertions of Mr. Unwin, 57 were alive.

By 1851, there were living 1,488 girls under six years of age; at the close of 1854, there were 1,079 Chouhan girls to 1,095 boys of seven years and under; while during the

year 1855, two hundred and thirty-eight girls were born, of whom 39 died, leaving 199 alive. No records on the subject subsequent to that year are now forthcoming.

19. In paragraph 14 I said that the results attained might be attributed *almost entirely* to the preventive measures which have been continuously in force since Mr. Unwin's time.

The exceptional circumstances occurred thus:—

20. In 1864 the attention of Government was more than usually attracted to the prevalence of infanticide in the Agra Division, and returns were called for with a view to the adoption of further measures. At the close of 1864, investigation showed that there were then alive in the Mynpoory District 2,227 male and 1,284 female Chouhan children under the age of six years. There were also on the same date among the Aheer Phatueks 735 male and 447 female children. A similar return was prepared up to 10th September, 1865. That showed 2,065 male and 1,469 female Chouhan, and 599 male and 423 female Aheer Phatueks. The average of these two years gives a proportion of 61 male Chouhan children to 39 female, and of 60 male Aheer Phatueks to 40 female under the age of six years.

21. Such disproportion led to further correspondence and enquiry, and it was ascertained that, in six villages where Chouhan families resided, no female children *at all* were to be found alive under the age of six years, nor could it be stated that any daughters of tender years had ever been seen alive in those families within the recollection of any one residing in those villages.

22. It then became evident that measures of an exceptional character were necessary to remedy this extraordinary state of affairs.

In five out of the six villages the Chouhan families were very few in number, and the average number of boys alive was only seven. Although, therefore, there could be little doubt as to their guilt, it was manifest that they were not in a position to support any great pressure of a pecuniary nature.

23. The sixth village, Narainpoor, was accordingly singled out for example under the following circumstances. At the close of 1865, there were 26 boys alive under the age of 6, in 15 families numbering 88 souls. There were no girls, and the parents said none had ever been born since the English had taken possession of India. Calculating, however, that in the ordinary course of nature an equal number of boys and girls should have been born, it followed that during the preceding six years 26 female children must have been destroyed, or not less than four a year.

24. A force of additional Police, consisting of a Head Constable on Rs. 12 and 4 Constables on Rs. 6,—total, Rs. 36 per mensem—was sanctioned for one year, it being understood that during that period four daughters would probably be born; and, if that number should be found to be alive at the end of the year, the further continuance of the force would then be taken into consideration.

25. I find from the records of this office that before two-thirds of the year had passed the Rajah, whom I have already alluded to as the head of the caste, interceded, and on his representation an undertaking was entered into by the chief men of the village, who through him bound themselves by a solemn promise to abstain altogether from the abominable practice for the future, under penalties both social and criminal.

The Police were therupon withdrawn.

26. Within the last few days I have examined the condition of this village, and also of the other five villages where five years ago no girls under six years were to be found. The result is that in Narainpoor there are 6 girls to 11 boys, all under the age of three years and a half,—that being the period that has passed since the Extra Police were first quartered there.

The girls are still below the proper proportion, but the inference is unanswerable. Active interference has saved the lives of two children a year for the last three years, and the

absence of any infant daughters previous to that period was simply the result of wholesale female infanticide.

27. In the other five villages there is also a slight improvement; but Kakun, a large village with six hamlets and 156 families all told, can only show 31 girls to 79 boys; while in the parent village of Kakun itself, where there are 19 married couples, 11 boys are to be found, but not a single girl.

28. I therefore conclude that repressive measures of the nature alluded to are to a certain extent successful. The quartering of a body of Special Police on any village, or group of villages, is, I consider, when due cause has been shewn, a good and salutary measure. It is in its nature punitive, for the charge has to be borne by those concerned, who have well merited the fine; and it is eminently preventive, for infanticide could not possibly be carried on freely, if at all, in the presence of officers specially appointed and ever present to detect it.

29. The improvement in Narainpoor and the other villages I am inclined to refer chiefly, if not entirely, to the stay of the Police, short as it was, in that one village. I wish the experiment had been allowed a longer trial; for I do not feel inclined to attribute much of the improvement to the influence of the Rajah, who died shortly after, or to the promises of the inhabitants themselves. I have shewn in paragraph 20 that special returns for the whole district, ordered in 1864 and 1865, shewed a population of 39 girls to 61 boys. This is what Mr. Moore would have classified as a "suspicious proportion."

30. The special returns ceased after those two years; but the ordinary annual figures show thus:—

At the close of—		Female children.	Male.
1866	...	1,656	2,025
1867	...	1,656	2,019
1868	...	2,019	2,414
1869	...	1,707	2,000

The proportions being in—

1866	...	13	girls to 57	boys.
1867	...	45	„	55 „
1868	...	46	„	54 „
1869	...	46	„	54 „

31. From these figures it would appear that for some years the increase of boys and girls has been about equal; for continually adding equal numbers to both sides will make their relative proportion approximate nearer and nearer.

The variation in 1869, I believe, may be ascribed to the frightful manner small-pox raged during the early part of that year.

32. Even allowing a fair margin for inaccuracies, these figures are certainly encouraging; and though I would not for a moment wish it to be supposed that the practice has been altogether abandoned—witness the present state of Kakun—yet the efforts so long ago commenced have undoubtedly borne much fruit, and hold out good hopes for the exertions yet remaining in order to realize complete success.

33. Something yet is still, however, wanting, and I will venture to conclude with a few remarks on what, with all dissidence, I conceive that want to be, and how I consider it might be supplied.

The *desideratum* I consider to be an actual realization of Mr. Raikes's proposals for the limitation of the wedding expenses among the Thakoor tribes,—some scheme agreed to, if not drawn up by the people themselves, and then supported with the sanction of law for its observance. The means are available in the authority conferred by the late enactment, No. VI*i*. of 1870.

34. I have already said that I could not conscientiously report that infanticide no longer existed in this district. During the past year, 1869, there were 92 casualties reported among Chouhan girls. Of these 36 were pronounced by the Civil Surgeon to have resulted from natural causes; in 49, the cause of death was returned as unknown; and seven

deaths were certainly caused by unfair means. Of this last number, the evidence was considered sufficiently strong in five instances, after Magisterial enquiry, to warrant committal to the Sessions Court. Convictions took place in two cases; but, although opium was distinctly apparent in the stomachs of the infants, the High Court on appeal directed the release of the convicted persons, no proof existing of the actual administrators. The Sessions Court at once threw out the other cases, and commitments in consequence have now almost ceased.

35. The crime, therefore, although no longer universal, cannot be said to be extinct. In some villages it would indeed appear to have almost died out; while in others it is as prevalent as ever. I accordingly premise that the preventive measures as to registration introduced by Messrs. Gubbins, Unwin and Montgomery, and which have been shown to have worked so well hitherto, will at last obtain the sanction of law.

36. It is to the fact that these measures were worked out through public servants that their past success must be chiefly attributed; for while they and they alone could be held responsible for carrying out the orders issued, any default on the part of Thakoors themselves to aid or give information could hardly be punishable by any law that I know of.

37. When considered, it is remarkable what results have been obtained from the small means employed. The total number of punishments inflicted, either for the capital crime itself or for offences connected with the working of the system introduced for its suppression, must be very small as compared with the gain effected.

38. Taking this much for granted, I therefore pass on to the question of marriage expenses.

Besides the inherent weakness of Mr. Raikes's scheme already alluded to as arising from its purely local character, it also suffered from the lack of any legal authority in support of those agreements then entered into. The unanimity of nearly

all the officers who have examined the subject as to the advisability of legislation on this point is remarkable.

The conclusion arrived at by Mr. Moore in the Benares Division in 1856 is just as applicable now to Chouhans of this district, and his proposals generally on this particular part of the subject seem to me to require little or no alteration to adapt them to our present wants.

39. Objections have been raised to legislating on this subject on grounds applicable to all sumptuary laws; but I think the advantages to be derived from a judicious interference in the present instance will largely predominate.

40. Laws should naturally be adapted to the conditions and feelings of the people among whom they are intended to operate. Because the *ruling classes of this country* have advanced considerably beyond the mass of the population, it does not follow that regulations and punishments, which would be quite unsuited for the legislators themselves, should therefore be out of place among the masses for whose benefit they are framed and introduced.

41. I have no doubt whatever that the feeling among the classes indicated is the same now as in 1856. The people groan under the burden of a social custom from which they would willingly be set free, but have not the moral courage to commence, nor the united perseverance to continue the efforts necessary for the desired end. These were Mr. Moore's ideas, and they are equally applicable now.

42. In January last, the Mynpoory Rajah of his own accord collected the whole of the leading men of his caste throughout the district in Durbar in his Fort. I was invited and attended with other officials.

The object of the meeting was to obtain the united agreement of the whole of the Chouhans to put down for ever the crime of infanticide. An undertaking was drawn up and signed by every one present, the wording of the instrument being nearly identical with that used in Mr. Raikes's time at the Samaon Meeting of 1851.

43. A discussion then arose as to the correlative subject of wedding expenses. The sense of the meeting was unanimous as to the advantages to be gained by some decided action to restrain these within reasonable limits. One fine-looking old man told me he had nine daughters, and that he has married two of them at a cost of Rs. 5,000 each; but it was evident that to do the same for the other seven would be his ruin. What was he to do?

44. The old difficulty then became apparent,—1st, a general movement is required, instead of mere local agitation; and 2ndly, whatever resolution is come to requires the support and sanction of superior authority. Any degree of odium that might otherwise attach to a movement savouring of economy would cease if the Government lent its countenance and aid. Such was the general impression.

45. It seems to me that some action on the part of Government is only just. Great efforts have been made, and will yet be made, to preserve the existence of lady Thakoors, and it is but fair that some assistance should now be given to their relatives to dispose satisfactorily of the fair burdens that have thus arisen in consequence of those philanthropic efforts.

46. One cause being thus shewn for action on the part of Government, I would suggest that some such machinery as that employed for Municipal Committees under Act VIII. of 1868 should be used for the required purpose.

Let the Thakoors of a Revenue Division or any more convenient group of districts be invited to consult and draw up among themselves some simple code to regulate the expenses incident to weddings. Such rules should be submitted for the approval of Government, in the same way as Bye-laws and various other points connected with municipal organizations.

47. When once approved and confirmed by Government, I do not apprehend there would be any difficulty in carrying them out. At any rate, the remedy would then be in the

hands of the classes directly interested, and their hearty co-operation might be assuredly looked for.

48. I have taken the liberty to make these few suggestions with all deference, the subject being now, I believe, under the consideration of the North-West Government; and although they have no pretensions to novelty, yet they are to the best of my belief calculated to meet existing wants, to be in accordance with popular feeling, and perhaps worthy of trial when the framing of rules under Act VIII. of 1870 comes under the consideration of Government.

From C. A. ELLIOTT, Esq., Officiating Secretary to, Government, North-Western Provinces, to OFFICIATING MAGISTRATE of Mynpoory, dated 23rd July, 1870.

SIR,—I am directed by the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor to thank you for the paper which you have drawn up on the repression of infanticide in Mynpoory. As suggestive of the means likely to prove effective for this object, and also of the difficulties to be overcome, your letter will be placed before the Committee now engaged in the preparation of rules; it will also be circulated among District Officers, and will be printed for permanent reference in the Selections.

2. In Mynpoory, as elsewhere, whatever has been effected has been by the "repressive system," introduced by Mr. Unwin so far back as 1843. So universal and dominant was the inhuman usage at that time among the Chouhans, that they had not a single girl in the whole tribe. By 1851 there were alive in the same tribe 1,488 girls under six years of age. But from some cause, which you have not explained, the coercive system was not maintained, as in Agra and Allahabad, and so the success has been only partial. In 1864, there being reason to suspect that the crime was again rife among the Chouhans, an enumeration shewed that the percentage of girls to boys was under 39. In Narainpore, where Police were quartered, the crime has been to a certain degree repressed; in Kakun, on the other hand, the girls are but 28 per cent. of the juvenile population, being 21 to 79.

3. The conclusion which you have drawn is thus shewn to be quite correct: "The crime, although no longer universal, cannot be said to be extinct. In some villages it would indeed appear to have almost died out; while in others it is as prevalent as ever." Under these circumstances application will be at once made to the Government of India for permission to proclaim the District of Mynpoory under Section II. of the Act, both in respect of the Chouhans and Aheers. The percentage of girls among the latter tribe is also shewn in 1864-65 to have been below 40.

4. Your remarks and suggestions on the necessity of limiting expenditure at marriages will be commended to the careful consideration of the Committee. It is plainly shewn that Mr. Raikes's scheme, apart from all other causes, had the element of failure in itself because local and not universal in its application. Any measure to be effective must be universal and extend as well to independent territory as to our own. The Maharajah of Rewah, as His Honor has been assured by Dr. Stratton, is prepared to co-operate; and the subject will be commended to the attention of the Agent, Governor-General, in Rajpootana and Central India.

From C. A. ELLIOTT, Esq., Officializing Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, to J. ENGLIS, Esq., Senior Member of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st June, 1870.

I AM directed to inform you that the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to appoint you to be President of a Committee, constituted as in the margin, for the purpose of drawing up Rules to give effect to Act VIII., 1870, for the Suppression of Infanticide.

Mr. C. P. Carnichael. }
Mr. C. A. Elliott. }
Mr. M. Kempson. }
Colonel Tyrwhitt. }
Mr. J. H. Lloyd, Mem- }ber and Secretary. }

2. I am desired to state generally His Honor's views as to the measures which should be provided for in the Rules. These should be based upon the principles laid down by Mr. M. R. Gubbins in Agra, which are shewn in the report by

Mr. Benson to have been followed by such excellent results in that district.

3. There should in the first place be prescribed a standard for classifying clans or localities, as, say, *guilty*, *suspected*, and *reformed*; the class being determined by given ratios of girls to boys under a certain age, which might be placed for the first two classes at twelve, and for the third at some lower age, perhaps six years.

4. Provision should be made for periodical enumeration of the infant population, the agency, (probably the Putwaree and Chowkeedar under proper supervision and check) being pointed out.

5. The measures for direct suppression will require careful elaboration. The head of the family present at the period should be made responsible for reporting pregnancies, say at the seventh month; and a record of the same should be kept by the Putwaree, to whom the Chowkeedar would be bound to make the report.

6. The village Daees should be registered, and the Daee of the family, who should be held responsible for being present at the birth, should be bound to make immediate report of the event to the Chowkeedar, who should forthwith visit the house and personally inspect the infant. If a girl, daily inspection for a prescribed period will be necessary. Rules also for reporting the sickness and death of female infants must be laid down; and up to a certain age the body of any female infant which may die must be inspected by proper authority, and in any case of suspicion sent for report to the Civil Surgeon.

7. It will be for the Committee to consider whether these measures should not be enforced with additional stringency and greater rigour in "guilty" than in "suspected" clans or localities, and, if so, in what particulars and to what extent. It will also be for your consideration whether, especially with the former, and in places where the families under surveillance are numerous, some special officer should not be

4. A collection of papers, including important extracts from the reports of Mr. M. R. Gubbins and Mr. W. R. Moore, has recently been forwarded to you, and also reports by Messrs. Hobart, Benson, and Rawlinson, on operations for the suppression of infanticide in the Bustee, Agra and Allahabad Districts. These will be useful to you as suggesting the points requiring attention and the precautions requisite to secure correct returns.

5. The existence of the crime can be certainly ascertained only by a census of the boys and girls present in the families suspected of the offence. As the present return is, however, only preliminary, and it is of extreme importance that the introduction of the Act should not be delayed by the preparation of elaborate and exhaustive returns of the infant population (returns which will eventually be prepared under the Rules), an actual Census need not at present be resorted to, except in case of doubt.

6. The grounds on which you will go at this preliminary stage are (what has been termed by Mr. Gubbins) "general repute and the voice of *fama clamans*," and also the returns of the last Census.

7. The Census returns are, however, available, it is believed, only territorially; that is, by pargunnahs, towns and

12. And not by clans or castes. The disproportion of suspicious cases in pargannah, town or village, will be sufficient.

13. Too much importance of infanticide there. But tailment of marriage expenses where a clan practising infanticide. The Lieutenant-Governor, as in country, the ratio of boys to attainable by direct interference little affected, although the Sumptuary restrictions of the pargannah may be Honor, can be effective on infanticide. Therefore, to obtain adopted by the people thoms' children should be looked to, in aiding the movement. And is, by pargunnahs, towns and enforcement of economy shon plan. In most districts where of Government, and advice w^tct has been already enquired freely given. In reference previous correspondence will of

course be referred to, and the information it contains turned to account.

8. In case of doubt, actual enumeration should be resorted to ; and this must be effected through the putwarees (or in towns through a Police Officer), under the direction of the Tehseeldar ; but, as before stated, this need not, at the present stage, be done excepting in case of doubt. Common repute will in general furnish the evidence now required.

9. Where a Census is necessary, it will be expedient, for the reasons given by Mr. Hobart, to include all children born since the Mutiny. This will give a date known to all ; and, in a country where exact ages are for the most part not remembered, it is safest to calculate from some well-known event. All will be able to say whether the children now present were born since the Mutiny or before it. Where girls born within this period have married and left the village, their names may, *on good evidence of the fact*, be inserted in the roll ; and if anywhere boys are absent, their names will be similarly be added. The induction will be wider, as including a larger number of children, than if a younger age had been fixed upon.

10. Ordinarily, where in any pergannah, town or village, or in any caste, clan or aggregation of families, the ratio of girls to boys is *less than 40 per cent.*, such locality or clan must be included in the category of "suspected," and recommended for treatment under the Act. Where the families, however, are few in number, the ratio alone will not be conclusive, as the variation may be accidental. Here discretion must be exercised, and other presumptions referred to.

11. From the information thus procured, whether of common repute or of actual Census, the Tehseeldars will furnish the Magistrate with a return which shall specify either territorially, or by castes, or in both ways, the places and clans to which the Act should be applied ; the grounds of entry, whether common repute or enumeration, will be given either in a general report, or in the column of remarks.

same caste ; in cases like this, I have not thought fit to exclude the name from the list. For instance, in Humeerporo and Sumairporo, the crime of infanticide is less practised than in other pergunnahs. Tho Purihars, from the returns in these two pergunnahs, seem not guilty, but the crime is more prevalent in this caste than in any other pergunnahs. I have accordingly entered their names; but, owing to their better proportions of girls in the second instead of the third class, several castes show a fair general district average but a bad one in particular pergunnahs ; a caste will therefore appear in one class in one pergunnah and in a different class in another pergunnah. The Chundel and Chouhan castes show from the returns a fair average, but infanticide was certainly practised by these castes, and the suspicion still attaches to them ; till, therefore, better proof of complete reformation is obtained, I think it would be a mistake to exclude their names.

7. I should not omit to notice that in some cases the Census Returns vary considerably from those lately prepared. In these instructions Mondah the boys of the Dikhit caste are returned now in a very much smaller number than at the census of 1865.

8. The returns show that the introduction of repressive measures has been attended with much success ; and now that legislation has followed, and the matter is being taken up in earnest throughout the country, I feel confident that in a few years the crime will cease to exist altogether.

*From C. W. MOORE, Esq., Officiating Magistrate of Etawah,
to SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, North-Western Provinces,
dated 3rd August, 1870.*

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Circular No. 24A., of 1870, of 1st June, calling for a statement of castes or localities which should be proclaimed under Act VIII. of 1870.

2. An examination of the last Census Returns proves that there was a deficiency of female children amongst the Rajpoot

tribes in this district; tho female child population amongst the Thakoors did not number two-thirds of the male child population amongst the same caste in any pergunnah, and that in Etawah and Bhurtna both Aheers and Brahmins had less than two-thirds the number of girls that they had boys.

If the total result in each pergunnah is to be the guide, the entire district should be proclaimed in respect of the Thakoor caste, and the Bhurtna and Etawah Pergunnahs in respect to Aheers. But I do not find that the Aheers of either pergunnah are notoriously guilty of infanticide; on the contrary, in Bhurtna there are only three villages notorious, viz., Jarpoor and Pallee Kullan and Khurd, inhabited by a tribe of Aheers, who, having obtained the name or title of Rawat from the ancient kings, are described to be as proud as Rajpoots, and to have adopted the practice of killing their infant daughters.

3. In Etawah I have found no general rumour in respect to the guilt of Aheers, but I strongly suspect that those of the caste who reside in the villages between the Jamna and Chumbil are guilty of the crime, residing as they do in the midst of a Rajpoot population who are notoriously guilty, and in a wild and little frequented tract of country.

4. Though pergunnah results show the whole district to be liable to proclamation, the detailed examination limits the number of guilty villages considerably.

5. So far as notoriety goes, it would seem that, with the exception of Rughbunsees, who are stated by one Tehseldar to be innocent, all kinds of Thakoors are occasionally guilty. In the selected villages referred to in paragraph 3 there are various tribes of Thakoors. Sometimes five or six tribes are represented in one village. The notoriety, if there is any, generally attaches to the village and not to any particular tribe therein; though I have no doubt that in many villages the suspicious deficiency of girls is due to the mal-practices of some of the tribes only, and of a portion only of some particular tribe. For instance, it seems that Gohlots,

Bamungores and Bais Thakoors kill their daughters if they are rich, but make a profit by their marriage if they are poor.

6. It appears to me, therefore, that notoriety is misleading, and the old Pergunnah Census Returns are so also. At least they show Brahmins in an unfavorable light in the same way as Thakoors and Aheers, and to very much the same extent.

7. I hope that the old Census Returns will not be accepted as the final test, and that the rules now under manufacture may contain a provision that they be put in force only in such of the proclaimed tracts as may be found at a census, to be made specially for the purpose, to have less than 40 girls to 60 boys of the suspected castes. I think it probable that a new Census will show many villages in a more favorable position than they obtain under the last.

From R. T. HOBART, Esq., Joint Magistrate of Etah, to OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, North-Western Provinces dated 5th August, 1870.

I HAVE the honor to submit herewith the return called for in your No. 603A., dated 1st June, 1870.

The villages in which these tribes reside are so numerous that I have thought it better to take advantage of the permission accorded in that letter, and to merely enter the number of the villages in which these suspected tribes live.

The various tribes of Thakoors in this district number 27, out of which, if statistics and to some extent rumour be true, 12 may be regarded as guilty of infanticide. To have written down the 709 villages in which they live would have made too bulky a return to submit, but I have this return by me, and have excepted again from it the villages which beyond a question practise the crime. They are 157 in number. The numbers of the girl and boy population are taken from the Census Returns for the Tehseels of Allygungé and Khas-gunge, and from actual enumeration checked by the Census Returns for Tehseel Etah.

The names of the tribes inhabiting the various villages were entered after a careful local enquiry by the Canoongoes and Tehseeldars, and from the mouth of the Village Putwaries, and in case of doubt from the men themselves. I think that the returns are pretty correct. I have done my best to have them so, and have been obliged to return a few of them more than once for correction.

There are three leading tribes, the Chouhans, Solunkees, and Rathors, and numerous smaller tribes, the Pooroor, the Gour, the Jadon; the Toonwur, Kuchwaha, Dhakuree, Rughunsee, the Katiya and the Kutiha, who are fairly presumed guilty.

Chouhans.—The Chouhans are the most numerous tribe; they number 2,708 boys to 1,505 girls in the district, or 37 per cent. of girls; while in the Azimnuggur Tehseel, bordering on the Mynpoory District, the boys are 911 to 452 girls, or about 33 per cent. In 45 of these worst villages, there are 1,146 boys and only 246 girls. I would apply the law to the Chouhans all over the district.

Solunkees.—The Solunkees number 1,944 boys to 965 girls. The latter are in a percentage of only 33 in the whole district. In 40 of their worst villages they number 1,916 boys to 273 girls. I would apply the Act to this tribe all the district over.

Rathors.—The Rathors, who live principally in the Azimnuggur Pergunnah near the Mynpoory District, number 1,388 boys to 722 girls. The latter are therefore about 34 per cent. of the child population; while the 16 villages which have been excepted as the worst number 549 boys to 88 girls.

By rumour and by statistics this tribe is the most addicted to the crime, and, as I found before in a former investigation, the other tribes living in their neighbourhood seem to be influenced and infected by the bad example.

The law should be made applicable to the Rathores throughout the whole district.

Gours.—The Gours number 635 boys to 379 girls; i. e., the girls are about 37 per cent. of the child population in the

pect their accuracy. My doubts were considerably increased by observing that the ratio of boys to girls in villages inhabited by classes of Rajpoots not suspected of practising the crime, often showed worse than in villages which were so suspected, and reached their climax when I found that villages not inhabited by Rajpoots at all showed frequently as bad or worse than those so populated. On coming to enquire into the cause of these anomalies, I ascertained that the Putwarees, in filling up the column in their Census Statements, headed "male" and "female children", had adopted no uniform system. Some called all males children up to the age of 18 or more, some up to 12 or 14 only; some called all females children unless they were married, some up to the age of 12; and so on. The usually adopted plan, however, was to call all males children up to the age of about 18 or so, and all unmarried females children; the result of which would be, of course, to cause a large disproportion of females, numbers of them having married and left the village ere attaining the age of 18. Moreover, I have had perhaps some 50 villages of different sorts counted out by picked officers, and the result of this counting again often showed the percentage of boys to girls so different to that exhibited in the Census papers that I have become perfectly convinced, except in the case of largely populated villages, where an immense disproportion is manifested, that these returns *per se* are for our present purposes perfectly valueless—in fact only calculated altogether to mislead.

6. The remaining information I have to go upon is the late Mr. Moore's report written in 1855, containing a list of then suspected villages and present general reputc. General reputc now is that infanticide is practised by the Bais of Tuppahs Kooba, Atrcha and Dakhmha, of Tehseel Deogaon, the Goutums of several, and also the Monus, Nunwuks and Chundels of one or two villages of Tuppah Dowlutabad, Tehseel Nizamabad. All the villages named in the list attached to Mr. Moore's report, with the exception of one, Anuliya, which is wrongly quoted there as being in Tuppah Dowlutabad, and

which from enumeration now made does not appear to be open to suspicion, are in one or other of these Tuppahs.

7. As to the Rajpoot clans living in the remaining portions of this District, including Mahoul, there not being any regular *fama clamans* of infanticide prevailing, and the Census Returns for reasons given in paragraph 5 of this letter not being deemed *per se* reliable, my opinion is that the only way to ascertain accurately whether infanticide does or does not prevail is for a regular enumeration of the Rajpoot inhabitants of each village in the District to be made under European superintendence on the spot. I say European superintendence, because I do not consider that returns compiled by natives without such superintendence would be sufficiently reliable. Nor should the decision rest upon enumeration only—in some villages the number of Rajpoot families is so small that the ratio of boys to girls can form no safe criterion by itself; it should be ascertained in the case of each village what other villages there are belonging to the same families with whom they intermarry, and a note on the point recorded in the column of remarks in the enumeration register; comparison of the joint returns of different villages peopled by the same families, and general information; which it would not be difficult to procure on the spot, would sufficiently elicit the truth. This enumeration can only be undertaken in the cold weather, inasmuch as at the present time the country is all under water. Meanwhile I am having prepared from the Census Returns of 1864 for the remaining Tehseels extracts of the Rajpoot inhabitants in the different villages thereof. This, if of no other use, will at any rate put one in possession of information as to what villages there are in each tehsil to investigate.

8. I take this opportunity of remarking that there is one village down in Mr. Moor's list of suspected villages in Tehsil Deogaon which has been excluded by me, viz., Lalmow; this because, although situated amidst a group of villages practising the crime, by actual counting, it has now been

taken as a whole, the expenditure columns are not far out, and should be accepted as they are, for it is impossible to subject them to any test.

The percentages point inevitably to the rapid decrease of the race of Rajpoots, and argue a state of society which calls for the gravest consideration of Government. From it we find that, taking the column of married men to represent man and wife, we have 20,704 couples with only 26,856 children, between them, or 1·29 children to each couple (many of these are the offspring of illicit connections with mothers of different castes; but we may let this pass, as the offspring is always considered to be the caste of the father, though known to be half-castes). Add to this—there are in this district 13,085 marriageable men, but unmarried, between the ages of 16 and 50, against 20,704 married men out of a total male adult population of 23,789; that is to say, 38·72 per cent., who may be considered as not even contemplating marriage; and the result must be, if this goes on, the extinction of the race altogether. Were these figures insufficient to prove the deduction, I would only ask you to note the percentage (4ic4·12) of children to adults. That the race is decreasing is well known among themselves, and the general poverty of the race contributes to prevent regular marriages; but that those who do marry should not in such a large average as 20,704 married couples be able to keep up the race, seems almost incomprehensible, and still further puzzling, as I shall presently show that infanticide, though a very common crime amongst them, does not alter materially the above-mentioned figures. Even supposing we took the standard which I believe to be the correct one, viz., one girl for each boy all through the district, and assuming the number of female children to be twice the number of male children, viz., 31,426; and add to that all the males between 16 and 50 unmarried, 13,085 (as many of them are undoubtedly the children of those enumerated as married), we shall only have a total of 44,508 children as against 60,863 adults. Further, if, after deduct-

ing all the suspected villages and their totals of married men, boys and girls, we examine the result, we shall find 11,717 married couples with 16,192 children, or 138·19 per cent., equivalent to 1·38 children to each married couple.

So, also, deducting all the suspected tribes, if we add the sum of the unmarried men between 50 and 16 to the children of the unsuspected tribes, making a total of 28,611 children to 14,875 married couples, we shall have 1·92 children to each married couple.

There may be errors and omissions in the Census tables on which these statistics are founded, but a great deal of time and labour has been expended in preparing them ; and even supposing we allow an error of one to two thousand in the number of children, which is, I believe, far beyond what further enquiry in the cold weather will reveal, we are still in the same dilemma,—the royal race of Rajpoots is dying out in this part of the country.

I will now proceed to call your attention to the village Statement and ask you to study the result of deducting the totals of children, male and female, in the pergunnahs in which the number of female children does not come up to the standard.

These are Pergunnahs Akberpore and Sarh Salempore. The two pergunnahs have a total of 4,582 boys and 2,469 girls. These deducted from the district totals of boys and girls leave 11,131 boys as against 8,711 girls, or 43·9 per cent. of girls on total infantile population.

But I have a further test. I find there are 336 villages, out of a total of 1,097 in the whole district, which, according to the Government standard, are obnoxious to suspicion. They have 9,009 married couples, with 7,759 boys and 2,942 girls, or 27·49 per cent. on total infantile population, leaving a balance in the remaining 769 villages of 11,717 married couples, with 7,954 boys and 8,238 girls, or 50·87 per cent. on total infantile population, or a total of 16,192 children, equal to 1·38 children to each couple. Here, then, where female infanticide clearly does not exist, we have an average in every

pergannah of over 50 per cent. of female children, with the exception of the two pergannahs, Akberporo and Sarh Salem-poro, which I have above shown to be tho only pergannahs which are obnoxious to suspicion.

The Casto Statement, will be found to corroborate the above deduction. There are 17 tribes in tho district, according to this statement, whose average of female children is below the standard, and they include, 5,851 married couples, with 4,594 boys and 2,445 girls, or 34·73 per cent. on total infantile population. The remaining tribes include 14,875 married people, with 9,119 boys and 8,736 girls, or 48·92 per cent. of girls on total infantilo population.

Turn now to the Statement showing the tribes as they are suspected or otherwise in each pergannah, and the totals ——
—of suspected tribes 8,858 married couples, with 6,888 boys and 3,560 girls, or 34·07 per cent. on total infantilo population, and unsuspected tribes; 11,858 married people, with 8,827 boys and 7,620 girls, or 46·33 per cent. on total infantile population, and 16,447 children between 11,858 married couples, which is 1·38 for each married couple.

To sum up these figures—

These figures speak for themselves, and, short of most egregious errors, such as I cannot suppose or admit to have happened, bear me out in my first deduction that a few generations more must see the end of the Rajpoot caste.

It may be as well to add that where women of other castes have been found to be living openly with Rajpoots, they have been entered as adult female Rajpoots and their children also under the respective heads of the tables, and this does away even with the faint hope which might be entertained of keeping up the race by illicit connection.

I next come to my second assumption—to the question of the average proportion of girls to boys:—

The village Statement gives it	...	...	41·64
After deducting suspicious villages	...	...	50·87
After deducting suspicious tribes	...	...	46·33

I am of opinion the second is conclusive on the subject. It will be observed that this high average (50·87) is not only the average arrived at over a vast number of married people, *i. e.*, 11,717, but is equally apparent, and even in a higher degree, when one examines the average of each pergunnah in unsuspected villages. There are only two pergunnahs, Akberpore and Sarh Salempore, where the averages are below 50 per cent., and they are, as I have elsewhere shown, the pergunnahs most tainted of the whole district.

Thirdly,—I maintain that expenditure on marriages has no bearing now on the crime of infanticide, at least, at any rate, its effects are inappreciable. The greatest expenditure incurred by any tribe is that in the Bisen tribe, where the average expenditure on 18 marriages came to only Rs. 295.

The greatest number of marriages are recorded in the Gour tribe, and their average is only Rs. 132, whilst in the instance of one tribe the average runs down as low as Rs. 25. I maintain that no limitation of marriage expenditure could affect these averages, they are in themselves so low; and though I might, by excepting one or two marriages in each caste in which absurdly large sums were spent, reduce the average still lower, I do not wish to lengthen this already voluminous report; I consider the statement, as it stands, bears me out in my position.

The saddest reflection, however, which occurs to one in looking into this statement as well as many of the others, is the number of unmarried girls during the past 15 years. Setting aside those under five years of age, we have 7,294 female children, of whom 3,474 are unmarried, or 47·62 per cent. Knowing what an essential thing marriage is in a Hindoo family, and the danger to its honour there is in keeping uneducated girls (with passions hardly less under control than animals) unmarried, one cannot but feel that if pressure could be brought to bear on this branch of the subject, one of the greatest objections to having female children would be removed. But in this no measures of Police could possibly be of any

avail—nothing but moral persuasion can do anything ; and though respectable members of the caste admit the general principle, every officer will find, in trying to enforce marriages, a general but passive resistance to his views. As I have said before, this is partly caused by the great poverty of the caste ; but it is more especially due to the absurd ambition which actuates them all to marry into a higher tribe.

Fourthly,—The means I propose to adopt to stop the crime of infanticide are severe, but I believe they are the only ones which will deal with it effectually.

The statements I have prepared and the remarks I have made on them show that the crime, though practised by some tribes in one village, is frequently not practised by the same tribe in other villages, nor necessarily is the whole village tainted. The sub-division of tribes into Gotes will not explain this, as, after making enquiry in every pergannah, I found not two men in a hundred know which Gote they belong to ; they were obliged to consult some Pundit if they wished to ascertain, and his decision, as far as I can ascertain, was purely arbitrary. The fact is the absence of the great tie of marriage has reduced both the highest and lowest tribes to a purely mixed caste, which, while retaining some of the worst characteristics of the race, has only retained the name of the tribe of the ancestor who first began the intermixture of blood.

Taking this view, I have not attempted the subdivision into Gotes.

I am free to admit that those professing to belong to the oldest tribes, such as Chouhans, Chundels, Gours, Deonwars, &c., are more prominently remarkable for the absence of female children ; but I find the crime of infanticide also prevalent in tribes whose origin is quite of modern date ; and though refraining from enumerating all the various causes which originally led to the custom of female infanticide, and which have been elaborately detailed by many officers, I state it as my unreserved opinion that it now exists simply from

eustom, that its most energetic supporters are the old women in the villages, and that the mothers themselves are almost always consenting, and not unfrequently the actual perpetrators of the crime.

I hold it to be next to impossible to get a conviction. Setting aside the almost impossibility of getting a body brought any distance during the hot weather, I know that under any circumstances all doctors will say it is almost impossible, when the child's body is brought to them, for them to say whether the death has been caused by nature or otherwise. The temporizing measures which have hitherto always been adopted, partly in the hopes that public feeling might be brought to bear on the subject and partly from the want of legal power to interfere and make the whole village responsible, have entirely failed. You will see that out of 11,180 female children under 16 years of age, a third only of them have been born within the past five years, and this is allowing nothing of the mortality which must have occurred during the previous ten years. Though all Rajpoots assert that the crime was infinitely more prevalent before the mutiny than it is now, I cannot see any grounds for concurring in the assertion. They know we cannot convict, and, when asked why there are no female children, are content to say, in a helpless manner, "*hota nahin*," and are careful to adopt such a method of destruction as shall leave no marks behind. This is not difficult; a few hours of exposure immediately after birth and the deed is done, or the mother is sent off to her family's house in another district and kept secret until all is over, and then sent home again. Midwives, even if they could be trusted, are helpless; there are always old women in the family who are quite able to deliver a woman, and the rest of village always agree to know nothing about it, and the only occasion upon which a birth of a female child gets reported is when there is a feud in the village.

The Chowkeedar is the servant of the Zemindars, and unless there is some one powerful enough to protect him, and willing that the fact shall be known, he will never tell.

males one is often son and the other parent.* The question is interesting, but is foreign to the present purpose.

5. You next show that in unsuspected villages the proportion of girls to boys nearly reaches 100 per cent., and conclude that the Government standard of 40 girls to 60 boys is too low. This is probably true, but the object was to fix a standard below which, if the proportion fell, there could be no reasonable doubt of guilt.

6. Your third point—that marriage expenditure has no connection with infanticide, because the expenses, as stated by the people, are not large—is hardly established by the facts you state. A sum even of Rs. 100 would be a severe drain on the resources of a Rajpoot cultivator or small puttoedar, sufficient (on the presumption that the prospect of future heavy expenditure does lead to infanticide) to make him regard with apprehension the birth of every female child. It is, of course, open to argument how far that presumption is correct.

7. Nor does the Lieutenant-Governor agree with you as to the repressive measures which should be enforced. The imposition of Extra Police is a measure which His Honor would be unwilling to have resort to, except in the most aggravated cases. This subject is under consideration, and orders will be communicated to you hereafter.

8. The immediate point of interest in your report is the list of guilty villages. In preparing this, the greatest care appears to have been taken, and His Honor accepts the conclusion you have arrived at, that the villages named by you should be proclaimed immediately. The Infanticide Committee were of opinion that no repressive measures should be put in force at first in respect of villages or clans having an infantile population of less than 25. You state that you have

* NOTE.—Mr. Halsey gives the proportion of minors to adults as 44 per cent. But Mr. Plowden has shewn (Census Report paras. 61-76) that the true proportion is about 30 per cent. of minors to total population or 30 minors to 70 adults, or 43 per cent. of minors to total population, or 30 minors to 70 adults, or 43 per cent. The minors in Cawnpore are therefore not less but more numerous than the average, in spite of the prevalence of infanticide.

excepted from your list those villages in which the numbers are too few to afford a sufficient criterion, but you have omitted to state what your standard number is. No doubt, where the number of families is few, the induction from more numbers becomes uncertain; but it may be strengthened by collateral evidence, such as convictions or strong suspicions of destruction of female infants in the village itself, or the fact of the same clan in the neighbouring village being guilty; and it is on the understanding that you have taken these points into consideration, which you appear to have done, that His Honor is about to solicit the sanction of His Excellency in Council to the immediate proclamation of the Rajpoots in all the villages mentioned by you.

9. A copy of a Circular, which has recently been issued to all District Officers in these Provinces, is enclosed for your information.

10. It is conceived that the Census you have already taken is sufficiently accurate and complete to obviate the necessity of taking another census, as contemplated in the Circular; but advantage should be taken of the cold season by yourself and your Assistants to test the accuracy of these statistics in the most rigorous manner. The register, too, should be drawn up in the form contained in the Circular, and not in that which you have adopted. Further enquiry may reveal that there are other villages or clans as guilty as those which will be proclaimed, and it is important that none should escape.

11. In revising these returns, you will carefully bear in mind the instructions contained in the Circular, which forms the enclosure of this letter.

From C. A. ELLIOTT, Esq., Official Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, to ALL MAGISTRATES, dated 17th November, 1870.

YOUR letter on the subject of female infanticide having been laid before the Infanticide Committee, the Lieutenant-

Governor, acting on the Committee's recommendations, desires me to communicate the following observations and orders.

2. Immediate steps will be taken to procure the sanction of the Supreme Government to the proclamation under the law of the villages or clans in your district named in Appendix A. of this letter. These are the clans and villages respecting which, by the Census statistics, or by a general concurrence of evidence amounting almost to absolute proof, the fact of their guilt is established beyond a doubt.

3. But besides the villages or clans specified in Appendix A., there are, according to your report, good grounds for considering that grave suspicion rests on the villages or clans named in Appendix B. to this letter. These suspicious can only be cleared up by a careful enumeration.

4. Your first duty, therefore, on the receipt of this letter, and in anticipation of the proclamation, will be to take a special Census of these guilty and suspected clans in the villages or pergunnahs named, and to show the results in the register which forms Appendix C. to this letter.

5. The Census should be carried out as far as possible in one day, and through the medium of Putwarees (or in towns by Bukshees of Chowkeedars, Pound and Excise Mohurris, &c.) working under the supervision of the Tehseeldars, Peshkars, or other responsible officers; the operation and the returns being most carefully watched by yourself and your Covenanted Assistants.

6. The Committee found reason to believe that while legitimate girls are often destroyed, those of illegitimate birth are often allowed to remain alive. You are requested to enquire into this point while taking your Census.

7. On the completion of this Census, you will submit a report, showing the results of this enumeration, and stating your conclusions as to the guilt of the suspected classes of Appendix B., concerning whom, on the receipt of this report, further orders will issue. In order that the value of a Census

as giving evidence of the existence of infanticide may be properly estimated, I am to call your special attention to paragraphs 7 and 9 of my Circular No. 24A. of 1st June.

8. I am to inform you that the Committee have recommended that no proceedings should be taken, *on the strength of statistics alone*, to carry out repressive measures in villages in which the minor population of the suspected clans is less than 25 in number. This recommendation has been approved by the Lieutenant-Governor. But when the population of a village belongs to a clan which is shown in other more populous villages in the neighbourhood to be guilty of infanticide; or when convictions have previously been obtained against any members of the village; or when strong suspicions exist that female infants in the village have been made away with; the presumption of guilt may be violent enough to justify repressive measures, even where the minor population is below 25.

9. The proposal of the Committee is that a register of all births, deaths, and marriages should be kept up at each Police Station, and that an abstract of it, giving the results for each village, should be sent in at fixed intervals to the Sudder Station, where an abstract register in the same form should be kept up in the District Superintendent's Office. By this means a constant supervision will be maintained over the conduct of the guilty clans, and the progress of each village towards reform.

10. These registers, with the rules for repression and the list of clans to be proclaimed, will be at once submitted for sanction to the Government of India. But some delay may occur before the sanction is received, and it is important that the cold weather, which is the fittest season for taking the Census, should not be lost. I am to impress upon you most strongly the extreme importance of aiming at complete accuracy in these statistics, which are the foundation of the whole proceedings that will be taken under the Act. Not only does the issue of the proclamation at present depend upon them,

but also in the future. The proof that a village is reformed will rest mainly on the comparison which will be made between a subsequent census and that which you are now about to make.

From J. LLOYD, Esq., Secretary to Committee for suppression of Infanticide, to OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, North-Western Provinces, dated 25th November, 1870.

I HAVE the honor to submit the following Report of the Committee constituted in your letter No. 602A., dated 1st June, 1870, for the purpose of drawing up rules to give effect to Act VIII. of 1870, for the Suppression of Infanticide.

2. The Committee consisted originally of—

J. D. INGLIS, Esq., President.	}	Members.
C. P. CARMICHAEL, Esq.,		
COLONEL TYRWHITT,		
M. KEMPSON, Esq.,		
C. A. ELLIOTT, Esq.,		

J. LLOYD, Esq., *Secretary and Member.*

Subsequently, Messrs. Forbes, C.B., and E. Colvin were under the Lieutenant-Governor's orders, added to the Committee.

3. The primary object of the appointment of the Committee was to draw up rules under Section 2 of the Act. Subsequently, the reports as to the clans against whom, and the villages in which, repressive measures should be enforced, received from District Officers in reply to the Government Circular No. 24A., of 1st June, were, under the orders of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, transferred for the Committee's consideration.

4. It was found necessary to return to certain points in the course of discussion ; the order, therefore, in which the various subjects were taken up, will not be adhered to in this report. It appears more convenient to take them thus :—

- (a) Proclamation of districts or classes.
- (b) Census.
- (c) Agency for collecting information.

- (d) Registration of information so collected.
- (e) Preventive measures.
- (f) Extra police and officers.
- (g) Defrayment of expenses incurred.
- (h) Miscellaneous subjects.

5. The question as to the districts, or portions of districts,
 M. Kempton, Esq.
 W. A. Forbes, Esq., C.B.
 E. Colvin, Esq.
 J. Lloyd, Esq.
 or classes which should be proclaimed,
 and thereby brought under the provisions of the Act, was referred to the Sub-Committee marginally named.

6. Principles were laid down for the Sub-Committee's guidance as detailed in the proceedings of the meeting held on 13th September. They were instructed to draw up two lists,—the one comprising the districts and classes undoubtedly guilty, and which should, therefore, be proclaimed at once; and the other comprising the districts and classes open to suspicion, but against which the evidence of guilt was insufficient to warrant proclamation without further inquiry. In drawing up these lists, the Sub-Committee were to be guided by the following rules:—(1) Where a special Census has been recently taken, and the infantile population is found to exceed twenty-five, and the percentage of girls is below forty, the village or clan must be included in the first list: (2) where a special Census has not been taken, those villages or clans reported to be notoriously guilty must be placed in the first list, and the suspected into the second.

7. The Report of the Sub-Committee, based on reports received from District Officers, accompanies in Appendix A.;* the decision of the full Committee, where alternative proposals were made by the Sub-Committee, being recorded on the margin of the Sub-Committee's Report.

8. It will be observed that in a very large number of districts, and portions of districts, it is proposed to postpone proclamation, pending further investigation. This inquiry should be made by enumeration in the cold season, and the results

* Not printed.

will form the basis for a recommendation by Magistrates to extend the provisions of the law to the tracts or classes shown to be guilty.

9. In the meantime, the Committee recommend the immediate proclamation of the districts and classes, as given in Appendix A.

10. The Committee were unanimous that where proclamation is made, a Census should be taken of the whole population of the proclaimed classes in the proclaimed tracts. In districts where further inquiry prior to proclamation is necessary, as a preliminary step, a census should be taken of the suspected classes.

11. In taking this census, the Magistrate's attention should be directed to ascertaining the number of legitimate and illegitimate children. It is believed that girls of the first class are often destroyed, while those of the second are allowed to survive.

12. The Committee also concurred in considering that the enumeration should be made under the orders of the Collector, and under his supervision and that of his subordinates. A sufficient staff for the actual counting would be available among the putwarces, pound molurris, abkaree molurris, &c., &c., who could easily be told off for one night or day for this duty.

13. The return should be primarily by villages. The villages should be collected and grouped according to the Police Stations, within the jurisdiction of which they are situated.

14. The form of the census caused much and repeated discussion. Finally, the majority selected the Form A., Appendix B.,* in preference to that which is shown in Form B., Appendix B.; and which was preferred by the minority. It was, however, agreed that both should be submitted for the consideration of Government. The forms are attached to the rules.

* Not printed.

15. It will be observed that the difference in the two consists in the omission of the column of approximate age. The consideration which this omission requires is testified to by the arguments the question elicited.

16. The advantages claimed for the column were, that it admitted of the combination of the statistics obtained at the census, with information subsequently registered; that, properly kept up, it would show the status of each village at a glance; that it would show the District Officer the villages to which special attention should be paid, and to which suspicion continued to attach, and the progress of each village or class from guilt to reform; and that it could be easily tested on the spot, and, when found correct, would obviate trouble by precluding the necessity of a periodical Census.

17. To this it was replied that the insertion of a column of approximate age would be fatal to the credibility of the register, as by it information probably inaccurate would be mixed up with figures certainly inaccurate; that it would increase the labor of the census, and would add elements of suspicion to the inquiry; that the ages were not required for the purpose for which the census was taken, as there is no fear of girls out of the age of infancy being made away with; that the notion of amalgamating the Census register with the register of events was impractical, as such an amalgamation could not be effected and kept up without immense and detailed labor, and, even if kept up, that no step could be taken on it without ascertaining by another census how far the registration of events had been honest and complete; and that all that District Officers would need to test on the spot was the accuracy of that registration of domestic events by the production of the infants reported to have been born.

18. The objection regarding inaccuracy in ages was met by the admission that for past years the ages would only be approximately stated, but that for the future the registration of births would ensure accuracy; that it was better to be

approximately accurate for twelve years than to throw over the entry of age *in toto* for ever.

19. It was urged that without some such entry it would be impossible to know how many should be yearly deducted from the non-adult and added to the adult population, thereby rendering comparison, if not impossible, certainly difficult. An abstract of the Census returns, grouping children in their ages, could be easily prepared by the enumerators in the yearly returns submitted to Government: each group completing its twelve years would be moved up to adults; after subtracting the registered deaths occurring before that time from the total.

20. In reply, it was urged that such a process would not be a light task; that in many districts it would involve the examination of an enormous number of nominal registers; that no mohurrir could be trusted to do it with accuracy; and that no covenanted officers could spare time to overlook such voluminous details; and that, if done, the results would be of little or no value, for the reasons stated above, since the registration of events itself could not be relied on without examination on the spot.

21. A considerable majority of the Committee were in favor of a triennial Census. The minority thought that if the ages of the children were not given in the first census, an annual Census was necessary, in order to check the accuracy of the information registered; that if a triennial Census only was taken, it would be impossible to ascertain if the persons bound to inform had given correct information, or if, when correctly given, it had been properly and truly recorded. If the ages of the children were recorded in the first Census, the minority agreed to a triennial Census, or even at a longer interval.

22. The majority considered that where a Magistrate and his Assistants were able to take an annual Census, they should certainly do so, and that there was nothing in the rule to prevent it; but that where the proclaimed classes were

extremely numerous, it would be impossible to carry out so great a work at such frequently-recurring periods, and that, therefore, it was wiser to frame a general rule, so as to embrace the extremon cases, and to provide that a census should be taken everywhere at periods not exceeding three years.

23. The Committee have adopted generally the agency selected by Mr. Gubbins to collect and afford information. The services of the putwaree for this purpose have, however, been dispensed with. The multifarious duties of that official so constantly necessitate his absence from his village or circle, as to render his being utilized impossible. It will be remembered that, for similar reasons, his agency in collecting and registering mortuary statistics has been abandoned.

24. Formerly, in the Agra District, engagements to give information on certain indicated points were taken from headmen of villages, midwives, and chowkeedars. It is now sufficient to direct such persons by a rule to do so. This has been done by Rules 6-15. An infringement of them renders the parties liable to the penalties detailed in Section 4, Act VIII., 1870.

25. The duties of the persons bound to give information, and the manner and time at which it is to be given, are, detailed in the above-noted rules.

26. These are based on the principles of those which have been found to work successfully in Agra; they are extremely simple, and appear to require no explanatory comment.

27. Pregnancies, under Rules 6 and 7, must be reported only in villages proved to be guilty of the crime in its most aggravated form, and these were defined to be those villages where the girl population is below 25 per cent. Information will be given to the chowkeedar by the family midwife. Rules 6 to 14 provide for the reporting of births, deaths, marriages, removals, and health of children up to a certain age, and for preservation of the body in certain cases.

28. Rules 16 to 21 provide for the registration of collected information. The registrars proposed are:—

- (1) Of pregnancies. This will be kept at the Police Stations. No abstract from it should be sent in. It should be examined at the Police Station by inspecting officers only, and should be kept private, as registers of bad characters are directed to be—
- (2) A register of midwives.
- (3) A register for each village of all births, deaths, marriages, and removals.
- (4) A quarterly return, abstracted from the third register, will be submitted through the District Superintendent of Police to the Magistrate.

29. The forms for these registers are contained in Appendices C., D., E., F., G., attached to the suggested rules (Appendix B.).*

30. The object of submitting the abstract of the third register in periods not less than quarterly is to admit of time enough for births and deaths to accumulate; to enable a Magistrate to judge where suspicion may attach from unequal proportions of births and deaths in the sexes, or from frequency of deaths, or paucity of births of girls.

31. Rule No. 21 provides that the District Superintendent of Police shall compile the returns of the various Police Stations into one for the district, and this shall be yearly submitted with his and the Magistrate's remarks, through the Commissioner and the Inspector-General of Police, for the information of Government.

32. The preventive measures, or, in other words, the duties of the Police, are embodied in Rules 25 to 29.

33. The registration will be kept up by the Station-writer; he will be supervised and checked by the Officer in charge of the Station or the Special Inspector (see para. 38), or both. These officers will also periodically visit villages and inspect children, and make all necessary inquiries into deaths, &c.

34. In villages where the non-adult female population is below 25 per cent. of the whole, the Committee consider that

* Not printed.

the bodies of all female children dying under six months of age should be sent to the Civil Surgeon for examination.

35. In other proclaimed villages, this precaution must also be adopted if the slightest suspicion exists that the death was due to foul means.

36. In making inquiries, the Police would be generally guided by the Code of Criminal Procedure. The Committee consider that the laws in force regarding the duties of the Police, supplemented by these simple rules, should be quite sufficient to secure the gradual eradication of this crime.

37. The conclusion arrived at by the Committee on the point of extra Police is that they should only be quartered in localities where resistance to, or systematic disregard of, the rules is proved to exist. In such cases, the procedure under Section 14, Act V., 1861, may, in their opinion, be followed. This Police would be located to overcome resistance and enforce obedience to the orders, for the systematic disregard of which their location was necessitated.

38. When the crime is so prevalent that the ordinary Police Force of the district cannot cope with it in addition to their other duties, an officer with the powers of an Inspector of Police should be appointed to aid in carrying on the duties of prevention and detection. This officer is only intended to supplement the ordinary Police, and to perform the duties they are not able to do in addition to their own work. The Committee believe that enough Constables and officers can be given from the reserve to aid this officer without entertaining more men.

39. The Committee consider that wherever it is proved to be necessary a Writer may be entertained in the Office of the District Superintendent of Police, to tabulate the statements of births, marriages, deaths, and removals.

40. The Committee also recommend that where extra work is very heavy for the number of proclaimed villages within the jurisdiction of a Police Station, a small monthly remuneration should be made to the officer whose duty it is to keep up the register.

41. Where it is found necessary to locate extra Police on account of resistance to or disregard of orders, the cost should, the Committee consider, be recovered as provided by Act V., 1861, for such cases.

42. In other cases, it is proposed that each district should pay its own expenses. The Magistrate should draw up an estimate of the expenditure, and a list of villages debitable with the cost. The charge per village should be proportioned to the number of proclaimed families in it. This should be submitted to Government for sanction, on receipt of which, the Magistrate should call on villagers to pay through their headmen within a given reasonable period. The distribution of the sum among heads of families should, as far as possible, be left to village custom. Where none exists, or the payers refuse or neglect to distribute the amount payable, the Magistrate shall distribute over heads of families, and, in cases of default, collect as arrears of land revenue.

43. As soon as the percentage of girls exceeds forty of the infant population, it should be exempted from charges; but Government should retain the power of exempting any village, for any special reasons reported, which Government may consider sufficient.

44. The following points have also received the attention of the Committee.

45. It will be observed that the rules practically, by relaxed and increased stringency, divide proclaimed villages into two classes,—one in which the percentage of girls is less than twenty-five of the infant population; the other in which the percentage is above twenty-five, but less than forty.

46. Exemption from the operation of the rules does not, however, necessarily follow when the girl population exceeds 40 per cent.; exemption from payment of costs does follow. The object is the encouragement to reform, while a watch may still be continued to prevent a relapse to former guilt.

47. The remuneration of midwives was discussed. It was considered unadvisable to interfere with their present

earnings by granting them salaries ; but a judicious distribution of small rewards, both to them and to village chowkeedars who have worked well, was thoroughly approved. The Committee did not, however, consider it desirable to lay down any definite rules on this point. It is impossible to anticipate the exact form or degree of good work which may deserve a reward. The Committee, therefore, prefer leaving such cases to be disposed of on the reports of Magistrates.

48. It was agreed that the chowkeedar should not in proclaimed villages be a man belonging to the guilty class, or a connection of any person of that caste. It appears that some cases occur in which the illegitimate sons of Thakoors are appointed to that office.

49. The Committee are of opinion that direct interference on the part of Government by curtailment of marriage expenses is unadvisable ; the fostering, however, of all efforts made by the people themselves to reduce the present ruinous cost of marriages, is a subject which should be distinctly impressed on all Divisional and District Officers. The immediate object is to save infant females. Questions relating to these marriages had best be met and grappled with when the girls who have been saved arrive at a marriageable age.

50. A proposal was submitted for the consideration of the Committee, regarding cases where the law fails to touch the father or mother of a young child who may have been killed by neglect or other means under circumstances which leave no moral doubt of guilt. It was urged that in such a case the law should be altered, so that the father should be held guilty of having caused the death of the child unless he could prove his innocence,—that is, that the *onus* of proving innocence should be laid on the father in the case of the death of an infant girl in one of the proclaimed clans. The majority of the Committee disapproved the proposal as opposed to principles of English criminal law. They doubted whether a legislative body would pass such an enactment, nor were they prepared to recommend one which placed the father at the

mercy of any person having access to the child. Further, they considered that practically it was not requisite, for experience has shown that infanticide can be checked satisfactorily, or suppressed, without such a law.

51. The rules suggested by the Committee to meet the requirements of Section 2, Act VIII. of 1870, are shown in Appendix B. They were finally drawn up by Messrs. Kemptson, E. Colvin, and McConaghey (the latter having acted temporarily as Secretary to the Committee during Mr. Lloyd's unavoidable absence), and have received the approval of the Committee as embracing all points determined on by them and embodying their solutions ultimately adopted.

From C. A. ELLIOTT, Esq., Officiating Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, to OFFICiating SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Home Department, dated the 14th December, 1870.

REFERRING to the correspondence on the subject of female infanticide, ending with my letter to your address No. 605A., dated 1st June last, I am directed to forward, for submission to His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, copy of the Report of the Committee appointed to consider the rules to be framed under Section 2 of the Act (VIII. of 1870) for the suppression of the crime.

2. In paragraph 7 of my letter above quoted, His Excellency was advised of His Honor's intention to appoint a Committee, and a copy of the instructions which were issued for their guidance (No. 602A., dated 1st June) is enclosed.

3. It will be observed that the Committee were at first requested merely to prepare a set of rules such as would meet the requirements of the case. Subsequently it was deemed advisable to lay before them for consideration the reports as to the localities and clans to be proclaimed under Section 1, of the law, which District Officers were called on in the Circular of the 1st June to prepare, and which were referred to in paragraph 3 of the despatch from this office, No. 605A., of 1st June.

7. The principles which have guided the Government in determining where the provisions of the law should be applied may be briefly stated to be these. It has been assumed that where the proportion of girls is less than 40 per cent. of the infantile population, the presumption of female infanticide is violent. In choosing 40 as the standard, the object was to exclude all cases of doubt. The standard may be low, but it is well not to aim too high at first. But this standard was not the sole guide. Applied to villages with a small population of children, it might lead to erroneous conclusions. Therefore, in villages where the child population was found to be less than 25 in number, guilt has not been presumed on the strength of statistics alone. In all cases, and more especially in those villages of small population, weight has been given to other considerations, such as the prevalence of the crime amongst the same clan in adjoining villages or perguntas, the knowledge that it had been committed by any family on any former occasion, and lastly, the voice of *fama clamans*.

8. But though these are the principles which have been followed in selecting new districts for proclamation, it has been determined that where repressive measures have already been enforced (for example, in Agra, Allahabad and in Mynpoory,) they should not at once be withdrawn, even though the proportion of girls has advanced up to 40 per cent. In the reform may only have been partial, and it is important that they should be watched in order to prevent a relapse into former habits. Then, again, the standard of 40 is itself low. Further, it will be seen hereafter that the rules vary in their severity according to the degree of guilt, and that a proclaimed clan with 40 per cent. of girls is subject only to a mild surveillance unattended with expense.

9. The Lieutenant-Governor has no hesitation in recommending that all the clans and villages specified in the districts given in the list be forthwith proclaimed. 14th

10. In anticipation that these proposals will be approved, His Honor has already issued a Circular to the Magistrates of the districts proposed to be proclaimed, calling upon them to make arrangements during the cold weather for a careful enumeration of the guilty classes under their immediate supervision and that of their subordinate Covenanted Assessors.

* No. 1455, dated 17th November, 1870. A copy of the Circular* is enclosed.

The enumeration, it will be observed, is not to be confined to those clans only of whose guilt there is no doubt, but will extend to others against whom such a suspicion exists, the evidence as yet being insufficient to pronounce them innocent with reasonable certainty. It was of primary importance that no time should be lost. I am to express a hope that the action of the Government in this particular may be approved.

11. I am now to offer a few remarks on the second point for His Excellency's consideration, viz., the rules of refection.

12. As observed by the Committee, they are exceedingly simple, and seem to Sir W. Muir to have been drawn up with care and judgment.

13. The principal practical points which the Committee had to decide were—(1) whether the proclaimed clans should or should not be divided into two classes, as being more or less guilty, and with separate sets of repressive measures attached to each class ; (2) whether the repressive measures should be carried out by special agency, or through the regular Police ; (3) what expenses should be incurred and how they should be borne.

14. It is most important that the measures to be introduced should be attended with as little expense to the people as possible, and that no unnecessary violence should be done to their feelings. It was evidently with these objects in view that the Committee have determined that the agency for making the Census shall cost the people nothing ; that registration should be made by no specially paid officer, save in places where the crime is very rife ; and that the surveillance to be exercised should be that of the ordinary District Police, supplemented only by a special supervising officer in the tract most affected. Lastly, the extreme measure of imposing Extra Police is not to be resorted to except in cases of resistance to, and systematic disregard of, the rules, and then only with the approval of the Local Government.

15. The only distinction made between the more and less

* Rule No. 6 of Appendix B. guilty of the proclaimed clans, and the only rule* which might reasonably be objected to as likely to be offensive to the people, is that which requires in certain cases that pregnancies shall be reported. His Honor considers that the Committee exercised a wise discretion in confining the observance of this rule to the classes most deeply stained with the crime whose girls are under 25 per cent. of the child population. Murderers such as these are not entitled to much consideration on the score of feeling. The rule, however, has been so framed as not to be unnecessarily offensive. The family are not bound to report : the medium of communication is first the midwife and then the village Chowkeedar : and the register of pregnan-

cios is to be a closed book save to inspecting officers. It is possible, however, that still more stringent rules than these may prove to be necessary; and where after proclamation, the crime of infanticide continues rise among any class or family, and the proportion of girls does not rise above 25 per cent., the Local Government should have power to direct that every head of a proclaimed family shall be personally bound to report every pregnancy at some period before the seventh month, and the Lieutenant-Governor would draw the rule in this sense.

16. Some difference of opinion exists in the Committee as to the form in which the results of the Census are to be recorded, and consequently the periods at which the enumeration is to be renewed. The majority decided in favour of the simple form of procedure, which can be adopted if attempts to ascertain approximate ages be abandoned; but the views of both parties have been given in detail, and alternative rules have been framed to meet either proposal.

17. The arguments on both sides are clearly expressed in paragraphs 14 to 23 of the Committee's Report, and to those I am directed to invite particular attention. His Honor is inclined to agree with the majority; but precautionally, in case His Excellency should be disposed to consider that the approximate age ought to be ascertained as far as possible, and that an attempt should be made to keep up such a village chronicle as that contemplated by the minority, it has been directed that in the Census now going on ages shall be recorded.

18. Were it possible to fulfil, with the available agency, the scheme which the minority would attempt, there could be no question of its desirability; but it is apprehended that, if the attempt were made at present, no great results would follow, while immense labour would be thrown on the hands of District Officers and their staff, which it is a great object to avoid.

19. No attempt has been made to frame rules to prevent extravagant expenditure on marriages. Sumptuary restric-

tions can be best carried out by the people themselves, and a movement in that direction has already commenced, as His Excellency will have seen from the public prints. It will be Sir W. Muir's endeavour to foster this movement; but it is rather to the system of registration of births and deaths and of periodical inspection and enumeration of children among the guilty classes, for which the Committee's rules provide, that His Honor looks for the eradication of the inhuman custom.

20. It has occurred to the Lieutenant-Governor to make

In the event of the child born being a girl, the Officer in charge of the Police Station, or an Officer of a grade not lower than Head Constable, shall proceed as soon as possible after the birth to the village, shall call for and see the child, and warn the father not to neglect it. The father and the midwife shall be bound to produce the child when called on to do so by such Officer. The inspection shall be repeated as opportunity may occur.

one addition to the rules as framed by the Committee. It is advisable that every female child should be inspected as soon after its

birth as possible by an Officer of Government, who should warn the father of the consequences if he neglects it. The clause marginally noted should be added to Rule 10.

21. For the rest, the rules are approved by the Lieutenant-Governor, and are commended to the consideration of the Supreme Government.

22. I am to beg that early orders may be issued on this despatch, as the interests of humanity demand that no time should be lost. The rules may possibly require modification hereafter, and their working will be most carefully watched. They are so framed that every proceeding under them must be under the direct supervision of the Government.

From A. O. HUME, Esq., Officiating Secretary to Government of India, Home Department, to OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, North-Western Provinces, dated 10th February, 1871.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters relating to female infanticide, and, in reply, to state

that the Governor-General in Council sanctions the proposal to publish in the local *Gazette*, under Section 1, Act VIII. of 1870, a Notification proclaiming the localities and clauses mentioned in the list enclosed in your last letter.

2. The Committee appointed to frame rules for the suppression of the crime in the North-Western Provinces has well performed the duty entrusted to it, and the rules prepared by it have been considered generally suitable. I am, however, to forward a memorandum* by the Legislative Department, with a copy of the rules finally sanctioned by the Government of India. It will be seen that there exists some little difference between these rules and those drawn up by the Committee, and I am to state that, in order to save time and avoid the necessity of making a further reference to the Local Government, the rules have been modified according to the remarks made by the Legislative Department; and His Excellency in Council hopes that this course will be approved by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

3. Although certain omissions have been made from the rules submitted by the Committee, yet nothing has been otherwise changed, and nothing has been added, of which His Honor is likely to disapprove. The omissions suggested by the Legislative Department refer, for the most part, to matters of no great importance, which can probably be provided for sufficiently by executive orders. If, however, any alterations of the rules now sanctioned, or additions thereto, be thought necessary, it will of course be open to the Lieutenant-Governor to propose them.

4. The proceedings taken by the Lieutenant-Governor in anticipation of the promulgation of the necessary rules, and reported in paragraph 10 of your letter of the 14th December, are approved. I am to add that His Excellency in Council concurs in the views expressed by His Honor in paragraphs 16 to 18 of that communication.

* Not printed.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

The 10th February, 1871.

No. 806.—His Excellency the Governor-General in Council has been pleased to confirm the following rules made by the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces in the exercise of the power conferred on him by Act VIII. of 1870 (for the prevention of the murder of female infants) and of every other power enabling him in this behalf:—

1. A Census shall be taken of the whole adult and non-adult population of the proclaimed clans, tribes or families, in the proclaimed tracts or villages.
2. The Census shall be made by the Collector, who will employ Putwarees, Bunkshees of Chowkeedars, Abkaree Mohurrirs, &c., &c., under the superintendence of Peshikars and Tehseeldars, controlled by Covenanted and Uncovenanted Officers. It will be conducted ordinarily during the cold season, when District Officers on tour will be able to exercise a thorough supervision over the subordinates employed in making the enumeration.
3. The annexed Form (A) shall be uniformly adopted for such Censns.
4. Copies of the Census Returns, when finally tested, shall be kept at the Tehseel, at the Police Station, and at the office of the District Superintendent of Police. There shall be a separate return for each village, and these village returns shall be bound up according to Pergunnahs for deposit in the Tehseels, and, according to Police circles of jurisdiction, for deposit at the Police Stations.
5. This Census shall be repeated at periods not less than one year, and not exceeding three years.
6. The heads of families in proclaimed tracts or classes shall report all deaths, births, and marriages to the chowkeedar.

7. All head-men of proclaimed villages, or of villages in which proclaimed elans reside, shall be bound to assist in enforcing any rules made for any of the following purposes :—

For making and maintaining registers of births, marriages, and deaths occurring in the proclaimed district, or in or among the proclaimed class, family or persons; and for making, from time to time, a Census of such persons, or of any other persons residing within such district.

For prescribing how and by whom information shall be given to the proper officers of all births, marriages and deaths occurring or about to occur, in such districts, or in or among such class, family or persons..

8. Chowkeedars of proclaimed villages or clans shall report at the Police Station all births, deaths, marriages, arrivals, and removals occurring in the proclaimed families or clans. In the event of the child born being a girl, the officer in charge of the Police Station, or an officer of a grade not lower than Head Constable, shall proceed as soon as possible after the birth to the village, shall call for and see the child and warn the father not to neglect it. The inspection shall be repeated as opportunity may occur.
9. When a pregnant female belonging to a proclaimed family is removed from the village, the chowkeedar shall at once give intimation at the Police Station of her removal, and the place to which she has been removed.
10. When a pregnant woman is brought into a proclaimed village, the chowkeedar will be bound to inform the Police of her arrival, and of the place from which she came.
11. The chowkeedar shall also report at the Police Station all pregnancies in proclaimed villages or families

where the percentage of girls to the non-adult population is under twenty-five.

12. The following events shall be reported by the chowkeedar immediately :—
 - (a.)—Births of female children.
 - (b.)—Deaths of female children under six months of age.
 - (c.)—Removals and arrivals of pregnant females, other
 * When required by Rule deaths, arrivals and removals, and all pregnancies* and marriages, shall be reported at the ordinary visit of the chowkeedar to the Police Station.
13. In proclaimed villages the chowkeedar must not be either a relation, connection, or of the same caste as any of the proclaimed families.
14. When the crime is so prevalent, and the number of the proclaimed villages so great, that the ordinary establishment of the district cannot cope successfully with it, an officer, with the powers of an Inspector of Police, for carrying out measures for prevention and detection, may, with the sanction of the Local Government, be appointed for a district, or a certain portion of a district, as circumstances may direct.
15. Extra Police, under Act V. of 1861, shall not be imposed except on proof of determined persistence in the crime, or systematic disregard of the rules, and only then on the special report of the District Officers, submitted through the usual authorities, and sanctioned by the Local Government.
16. The officer in charge of a Police Station shall be required to go to the spot and make inquiries in case of death or other suspicious occurrence ; to supervise the Mohurris and see that his registers are accurately kept, and the necessary returns submitted ; and to take every opportunity of checking the information given at the Police Station by local inquiry in person.

- He should also periodically visit the proclaimed villages and inspect the children. He shall report at once any event of importance which may occur in his circle.
17. The duties of the Special Inspector will be those ordinarily performed by the Police.
 18. A register of midwives in proclaimed villages shall be kept at the Police Station.
 19. Registered midwives shall not be retained in Government employ, but Magistrates and District Superintendents of Police will report cases in which they consider rewards should be given to them.
 20. The midwife shall report immediately to the chowkidar the fact of a female child's birth in a proclaimed family, and, in case of its death prior to the completion of her services, the fact of death.
 21. All expenses incurred in working the system sanctioned by Act VIII. of 1870 shall be borne by the proclaimed clans and families, and shall be recoverable as arrears of land revenue, provided that, when the percentage of girls in any proclaimed village or clan exceeds forty, it shall at once be exempted from any share in such expenses.
 22. Each district shall bear its own expenses. The Magistrate shall first submit an estimate of expenditure likely to be incurred in his district, with a list of villages (with the number of heads of families in each) which he considers should be called upon to contribute. On receiving the Government sanction, he shall then proceed to distribute the total expenditure amongst the different villages in proportion to the number of heads of families in each, and these heads of families shall re-distribute according to village custom. If no custom exists, or if the heads of families refuse to apportion the expenses amongst themselves, the Magistrate shall do so by number of heads.

of families. The cost of extra Police shall be borne by the villages on which they have been quartered.

23. In all proclaimed villages, where the proportion of girls to the non-adult population is under 25 per cent., the midwife shall report, through the chowkeedar, every pregnancy among the proclaimed families at some period prior to the birth. When the fact of pregnancy is marked by any ceremony, the report shall be concomitant with the ceremony. If, after proclamation, the proportion of girls does not rise to more than 25 per cent., the Lieutenant-Governor may direct that every head of a proclaimed family shall be personally bound to report every pregnancy at some period before the seventh month.
24. Pregnancies need not be reported in those proclaimed tracts or villages where the proportion of girls to the child population is above 25 per cent.
25. A register of pregnancies in the Form (B) hereto annexed shall be kept up for all villages in which they are directed to be reported. No abstracts from these registers will be submitted.
26. A register of births, deaths, marriages, arrivals and removals occurring in the proclaimed families or clans shall be kept up for each proclaimed village at the Police Station to which it belongs in the Form (C) attached.
27. Abstracts from these registers shall be prepared quarterly by the Police Officer in charge of them, and shall be submitted by the officer in charge of the Police Station to the District Superintendent of Police in the Form (D) annexed.
28. The District Superintendent of Police shall have the abstracts required under Rule 27 collated in his office, and shall submit the annual results through the Magistrate, Commissioner of Division, and Inspector-General of Police, for the information of Government.

29. If, on the occasion of a fresh Census, it should appear to the Magistrate that any village or clan had reformed, he should report the circumstance to the Local Government, recommending its removal from the proclaimed list, and await orders.
30. Any percentage of girls to the child population exceeding forty should ordinarily, but not necessarily, be the ground for recommending removal from the proclaimed list.

FEMALE INFANTICIDE IN THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

1. *From C. A. Elliott, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, to the MAGISTRATES of Districts proclaimed under the Infanticide Act, No. 366A., 14th March, 1871.*

In continuation of my Circular No. 1455A., dated 17th November, 1870, and subsequent correspondence, I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council has sanctioned the proposal of this Government to proclaim the localities and classes in your District specified in Appendix A. of the above Circular, and has also confirmed, with certain modifications, the Rules framed under Section 2 of Act VIII. of 1870 for the suppression of female infanticide. In consequence of this, a Notification, extract from which is enclosed, has this day been issued for publication in the Local Gazette, declaring that measures for the prevention of the crime will be taken against the guilty classes, and I am now to request that you will take immediate steps to give effect to the Rules.

3. As regards the Rules themselves, I am to observe as follows :—

(a.) Rules 1 to 5 inclusive relate to the census and mode of taking it. His Honor trusts that the instructions conveyed in paragraph 4 of my letter of the 17th November have already been carried out, and that the statistics for filling up the Register in the Form A. attached to the Rules are now available. You will observe that Form A. differs from the Form Appendix C.; forwarded to you with my letter of the 17th November, in the omission of the columns for the "approximate age" of minors, and in the addition of columns showing separately whether the male and female adults are married or single. It also shows more clearly (what was, however, the original intention of Appendix C.,) that the Register is to be a nominal one, giving the name of every member (not the numbers only) of the proclaimed family. You are requested to report if any difficulty is experienced in filling up this form from the returns already collected.

(b.) Rule 5 provides for the periodical renewal of the census. On the submission of the Annual Report contemplated by Rule 28, you will state your opinion as to the necessity for a fresh census, which ordinarily will be made only triennially.

(c.) Rule 6 defines the duties of heads of proclaimed families; 7, the duties of headmen; and 8 to 13, inclusive, the duties of chowkeedars. These are very simple and require no comment.

(d.) Rule 14. provides for the appointment of a special officer to supervise the measures of repression where the crime is very prevalent, and the number of the proclaimed villages so great that the ordinary district establishment cannot cope successfully with it. You are requested to consider whether any such officer is necessary in your district. If he is appointed, his salary will form part of the expenses of working the system of repression and will be borne by the proclaimed clans and families. It is His Honor's wish that the guilty classes should be put to as little expense as possible,

and in submitting any proposal of the kind you will keep this object in view.

(e.) Rule 15 permits the imposition of extra Police under certain circumstances. The Government will require full proof of persistence in the crime on the part of the offenders and of systematic disregard of the Rules before this extreme measure is resorted to.

(f.) Rule 16 states the duties of officers in charge of Police-stations; one of which, it will be observed, is "to supervise the Mohurrir and see that his Registers are accurately kept, &c." The person employed as Mohurrir will be the writer ordinarily entertained at a Police-station. It will devolve upon him to keep up all the prescribed Registers. Where the additional duty so imposed is excessive, he may receive, with the sanction of Government, an extra allowance to be fixed by the Magistrate and District Superintendent of Police in communication with the Commissioner and Inspector-General of Police. A rule to this effect was submitted for the approval of the Supreme Government, but was struck out apparently, because it was thought that an executive order would be sufficient. The Inspector-General of Police will be requested to issue the necessary instructions to give effect to the wishes of Government in this respect, and to define generally the way in which the Police are to carry out the new duties entrusted to them. In estimating the expense of working the Act, you will provide for the necessary stationery and the extra allowance which it may be found necessary to give to the Police-station writers on the conditions above laid down.

(g.) Rule 18 enjoins the preparation of a Register of midwives to be kept up at the Police-station. This should be prepared as soon as possible, and from time to time tested as opportunity may occur. It should be explained to them that any disregard of the orders laid down in Rules 20 and 23 will render them liable to imprisonment and fine. If after the experience of some months you find it advisable, you are at liberty to apply for an annual sum to be defrayed like other

expenses by the proclaimed villages, and to be disbursed in rewards to such midwives as have done good service in putting down the erimo or bringing it to light. Similar rewards may also be given to chowkeedars for special service. But this hardly requires to be provided for now.

(h.) Rules 21 and 22 sufficiently explain themselves. Your estimate of expenditure should be carefully and economically framed and submitted for approval through the Commissioner and Inspector-General of Police as soon as possible.

(i.) Rules 23 and 24 are very important. You will observe that the only distinction made between the more and less guilty of the proclaimed clans is as regards the report of pregnancies. No such report is required in those tracts or villages where the proportion of girls to the child population is above 25 per cent. In those localities where the proportion is below 25 per cent., the midwife and chowkeedar are both bound to report, and if after proclamation the percentage does not rise, power is given to the Local Government to declare the heads of the proclaimed families personally bound to report. To avoid unnecessary offence, it was determined that the Register of pregnancies should be a closed book save to inspecting officers, and you are requested to see that this Rule is strictly observed. The form for the Register of pregnancies is prescribed in Rule 25.

(j.) Rules 26 and 27 require that abstracts of the Registers of births, deaths, marriages, arrivals and removals, should be submitted quarterly to the office of the District Superintendent of Police, where they will be carefully examined and collated under Rule 28. Should any clerical assistance be required, you should provide for the salary of a clerk in the estimate required by Rule 22, but the charge will be admitted only if good and sufficient cause is shown.

(k.) Rule 28: The annual report should be submitted through the prescribed channels at the close of the financial year beginning from 1871-72.

(l.) Rules 29 and 30 provide for the removal from the proclaimed list of a village or clan which is shown to have

reformed. In no such case should the Rules be relaxed without sanction. Provision is not made for the exemption of a family living in a guilty village or belonging to a guilty clan, in which the proportion of girls to boys or the recent birth of a girl saved alive might be sufficient to prove that it has abandoned the practice. It is, however, believed that innocent are sometimes found intermixed with guilty families. Such cases should therefore be carefully investigated, and it will be for you to determine whether they should not be exempted from the operation of any or all the Rules. Especially would it be proper to relax in such a family the Rule for reporting pregnancies. It should be felt by those concerned that any sign of improvement in the careful preservation and nurture of a female infant will henceforth entitle the family to every consideration.

4. It was the intention of the Infanticide Committee to make a Rule directing that the body of every deceased female infant under six months of age should be forwarded by the Police to the Civil Surgeon for examination in the case of all villages or clans where the percentage of girls of the proclaimed classes is under 25 per cent., and that a similar procedure should be adopted in all cases of suspicious death even if the percentage of girls is over 25. The Rule was, however, considered beyond the purview of the Act, and has accordingly been struck out. But it is possible to secure the object desired by an executive order. His Honor is therefore pleased to direct (1) that the death of every female infant under six months of age in a proclaimed family shall be considered *prima facie* sudden and suspicious, and sufficient to justify an inquest being held on the spot by the officer in charge of the Police-station, in the manner prescribed by Section 161 of the Criminal Procedure Code; (2) that unless the result be entirely to clear the case from suspicion, the body be forwarded for examination to the Civil Surgeon.

5. The powers vested in you by Section 6 of the Act of dealing with neglected children will, it is hoped, be judiciously

7. After the 23rd February we were occupied in testing and correcting the returns. Then came the Hurdwar fair, the preparations for and the management of which took up a considerable portion of my time; and soon after I had returned to the station in the middle of April, and had commenced to go through the returns and to draw up my report, Mr. Laidman got a bad attack of fever, and I was obliged for a time to take up some of his work, and to put aside the census papers.

8. The mode in which the census was taken is this: An enumerator, generally a Putwaree, was stationed in each village, or if the villages were small and near together, two villages were given to each enumerator. These villages were then arranged in circles, one official being placed over each circle, and these circles again were grouped into larger circles which were made over to the Tehseeldars, Peshikars, and canoongoes. The census was taken simultaneously throughout the district on the night of the 23rd February, and on the next day the officers in charge of circles commenced to test and correct the Putwarees' returns. The whole of the returns were then tested as far as possible by myself and Mr. Tidy. The number of villages in which the census was taken is—

Tolisel Saharunpore	...	...	...	123
„ Deobund	...	...	...	130
„ Roorkee	...	...	...	93
„ Nukoor	...	...	...	268
				—
		Total,	...	614

9. None of the clans whose names were sent up with my letter, dated 27th July, 1870, have yet been proclaimed; and I am now glad that the Government did not move the Supremo Government to proclaim generally the Goojurs, Jâts, and Rajpoots in the four Tehscelees of this district, for I will honestly allow that the returns I sent in last year were not so accurate as they should have been. I took all the pains I could to obtain correct returns; but the sea-

son of the year was against me. I was quite new to the district, and I was not acquainted either with the men with whom I had to work, or with any of the villages in which enquiries had to be made.

10. Appendix to this report are returns showing the names of the villages in which and the castes by whom girl murder is practised beyond a doubt, and which, I would recommend, should be proclaimed. There is a separate return for each caste. This plan brings the results of the census as regards each caste under one view, and is a better plan, I think, than that of arranging the villages Tehsildar without reference to the castes.

11. The castes or clans, which have been enumerated are—
 (1) Pooreer Rajpoots ; (2) Other Rajpoots ; (3) Goojurs ;
 (4) Jâts ; (5) Tuggas ; (6) Kolcs. Each of these will
 be treated separately. But before entering into details, I
 must express my belief that infanticide, though it certainly
 is practised in this district, does not prevail to the extent
 which it does in the western districts of these Provinces. The
 Rajpoots are a very inferior set of men here to those one
 meets in Myupoor, Jounpor, and Oudh. There are no
 Rajpoots of noble family in this district, and many of them
 who call themselves Chonians, Ponwars, &c., belong in reality
 to lower clans, or are altogether spurious Rajpoots. Many,
 too, have been converted to Mahomedanism, and have
 more or less relinquished old customs and prejudices. The
 most guilty clan in the district is the Pooreer Rajpoots ;
 but, judging from the result of my enquiries and from the
 census returns, I do not think that infanticide is practised
 largely by other castes and clans, and I am borne out in this
 opinion by the reports of Mr. Spankie, who, when he was
 Collector here, wrote expressing doubts as to whether infan-
 ticide prevailed at all in this district, and it is not at all
 probable that the practice should have increased since his
 time.

12. The following table shows the number of each caste
 which it is proposed to bring under the operation of the Act.

The detail of these Mouzahwar will be found in the lists appended to this report :—

	Number of villages.	Total minors.	Boys.	Girls.	Per- centage.
1. Pooreer Rajpoots,	64	4,257	2,993	1,264	31
2. Other Rajpoots ...	18	719	527	192	26
3. Goojurs	137	9,149	6,379	2,770	30
4. Jats	16	1,125	772	353	31
5. Tuggas	6	1,520	1,108	412	27
6. Kolees	1	212	155	57	27
Total	242	16,982	11,984	5,048	29.7

The actual number of villages in which the above castes reside is 235 ; but where two or more castes reside in the same village the name of the village is shown in two or more of the detailed statements.

13. You will, no doubt, notice that occasionally in the statements families have been entered either whose percentage of girls to boys is up to 40 per cent., or whose minor population is under 25. This has been done when from local enquiry it appeared beyond doubt that the family or families are in the habit of committing girl-murder. The list of villages proposed to be proclaimed has been drawn up, not only upon the results shown by the census, but upon separate enquiries. When the population is very small it would be impossible to draw any accurate conclusions from the census papers only ; but when the figures are borne out by general repute and special enquiry, there can be no doubt about the guilt of the parents, and in such cases the families have been entered in the lists.

14. *Pooreer Rajpoots.*—These Rajpoots say that they derived the name of "Pooreer" from "Pooreree," a town in the south of India from whence they came four or five hundred years ago. A few families are to be found in the Roorkee and in the southern portion of the Nukoor Tehseels, but their two great colonies are in the Deobund and Saharanpoor Tehseels. In the former they reside in a group of

villages bordering on the Moolussernugur District called the "Kuthia," and in the latter in villages more or less scattered lying to the north and north-west of the city of Saharunpore.

15. The inhabitants of the "Kathia," of whom the Poorer Rajpoots form a large majority, are a turbulent, troublesome set and notorious thieves and cattle-lifters; and there can be no doubt that infanticide is practised in the "Kathia," to a greater extent than in any other portion of the district. There are certain villages, such as Muheshipoor, Shimlana, Bhaila-al-khoord, Bhaila-al-kulan, &c., &c., in which it is well known that the Rajpoots commit girl-murder, and the results of the census fully bear out these reports. The village of Shimlana, which is one of the largest and one of the worst villages, is inhabited by both Poorer and other Rajpoots. Out of a minor Poorer population of 278, there are only 28 girls, and among the other Rajpoots there are 11 boys and no girls at all! In Bhaila-al-khoord the figures are 6 girls to 80 boys; in Bhaila-al-kulan 25 girls to 75 boys, and in Muheshpore 42 girls to 112 boys.

16. The Poorers residing in the other portions of the district have not such a bad reputation as the "Kathia" Poorers, but yet it is quite certain that the whole clan practise infanticide more or less. Moradnuggur, Bhalsooa, Esapore, Bhojawala, Bulera kulan, are always spoken of as bad villages. In Moradnuggur the number of Poorer girls is three against 24 boys, and of other Rajpoots girls, one against eight boys. The percentage of all Rajpoot girls to boys is only 11.

17. *Other Rajpoots.*—The other clans of Rajpoots are—Birhans, Jaithul, Kour, Bharuddwaj, Chouhan, Tonouz, Guhlot, Jatoo, Gulerewala, Mundahnur, Bhuttee, Brihur, Raekwar, Nadley, Surovey, Suradhnah, Sunial, Ponwar, Rawut, Botnahi, Nain Bunskot, Beowal, Bourdah, Burkhan, Tonwur, Kanehdhan, Bhatoo, Busroli, Suroha, Rughunsee, Kuchwaha, Duhooyah, Chokur, Gour, Jhotwah, Burgoojur, Gorali, Ladoo, Nagroo.

18. Rajpoots live in scattered families in most parts of the district. There are very few villages in which they reside in any numbers, nor is there any group of villages inhabited by any one clan exclusively. They are, as I said before, generally an inferior class of Rajpoots, and numbers of them have been converted to Mahomedanism. They are to be found in greatest numbers in Tehseel Deobund. There are a few in Tehseel Saharunpoor. But in Tehseels Nukoor and Roorkee their numbers are very small. Infanticide is not practised by them to any great extent. The most guilty families live in the same villages with Pooreer Rajpoots. Out of 83 villages in which the census was taken I have selected only 19 for proclamation. In all the others either the number of the minor population is so small that on the census returns alone it is impossible to come to any fair conclusion, or else the percentage of girls to boys is high, and there are no grounds for suspicion.

19. *Goojurs*.—Goojurs reside in large numbers throughout the district, but they muster strongest in Tehseel Nukoor in Pergunnahs Nukoor and Gungoh, where the whole population may be said to be Goojurs. The census has been taken in no less than 391 villages, thus—

Hindoo Goojurs	...	...	...	369
Mahomedan Goojurs	...	...	...	16
Goojurs and other castes	...	...	...	6
			Total	391

and out of these I have entered 137 in the list to be proclaimed. Of these—

22	are in Saharunpore Tehseel.
34	," Deobund , , ,
23	," Roorkee , , ,
58	," Nukoor , , ,
137	

No Mahomedan Goojurs are included in the above.

20. The most guilty villages are—

Pergunnah.	Village.	Minor-pulation.	Boys.	Girls.	Percent-age.
Saharunpoor ... {	Nuhera ...	199	170	29	15
	Nawabans ...	93	78	15	16
	Beetya ...	49	37	12	24
Fyzabad ...	Suliejwa ...	131	99	32	24
	Tutohul ...	35	29	6	17
Deobund ...	Babaopoor ...	66	52	14	21
Rampoor ... {	Rampoor khas ...	73	58	15	20
	Oomahoo ...	202	152	50	22
	Jundehra Shumaspoor ...	160	129	31	19
Nagul ... {	Sherpoor ...	121	92	29	22
	Choundakheree ...	40	35	5	12
Jowalapoor ... {	Akeda Mukurnutpoor ...	28	23	5	18
	Mukduempoor ...	46	36	10	22
	Ambkheree ...	55	44	11	20
Munglour ... {	Sukhotee ...	55	44	11	20
	Scindunderpoor ...	36	30	6	16½
	Lucknowla ...	31	26	5	16
Sitanwali ... {	Bandskheree ...	28	22	6	21
	Saltipoor ...	106	83	23	21
Sultnpoor ... {	I Asudpoor ...	52	41	11	21
	Bishunpoor ...	46	36	10	22
Nukoor ... {	Dhakee ...	144	105	39	27
	Dhola Muzrah ...	68	49	19	27
	Chapur ...	91	75	19	20
Guugoh ... {	Jandkhera ...	165	118	47	28
	Munohra ...	96	73	23	24

In many villages in Pergunnah Rampoor, notably in Rampoor khas and Jundehra Shumaspoor, sickness lasted from September till February, and the number of deaths from fever and pneumonia was very large. In Jundehra Shumaspoor alone, out of a population of 1,570 no less than 300 died. This mortality no doubt affected the census returns, and very probably caused some villages to appear more guilty of infanticide than is really the case. I have no reliable figures from which to show that more girls died than boys. But we know that in villages where infanticide is practised less care is taken of the girls than of the boys, and that therefore the girls are weaker and more sickly, and more apt to succumb to fever and other dangerous diseases. Moreover, when the mortality was greatest, I used to hear that the number of girls dying was very great. But though this mortality may have reduced the proportion of girls to boys in some villages, it would not, of course, account for such an

immense disproportion as we find in Oomabee (girls 50, boys 152), in Jundehra Shumaspoor (girls 31, boys 129), &c., &c.

21. *Jâts*.—No very strong suspicion rests against the Jâts in this district. The census was taken in 48 villages, and out of these I have selected 16 for proclamation. Of these 3 are in the Roorkee, and 13 in the Nukoor Tehseel. There are no suspected or guilty villages in the Saharunpoor and Deobund Tehseels. The worst villages are—

Pergunnah.	Village.	Minor population.	Boys.	Girls.	Percen-tage.
Sirsawah ...	Jubheeran ...	195	136	59	30
	Bordhee ...	66	47	19	29
	Sukurtal ...	121	90	31	25
	Nuthoree ...	41	39	2	5

The Jâts, as a rule, are well-behaved, industrious class, and good cultivators.

22. *Tuggas and Kolees*.—When the returns were sent up to Government in June last Tuggas and Kolees were entered among the guilty classes, but I omitted to mention that the villages which I proposed to proclaim were situated in the Deobund Tehseel only. In the statement no “Tugga” or “Kolee” villages were entered under the Roorkee, Saharunpore, and Nukoor Tehseels. But I admit that I should have brought this to notice in my report. Subsequently I reported that, from further enquiries made by me, there was no reason to suspect the “Tuggas” and “Kolees” of infanticide. And in reply to this report I received a letter from the Officiating Secretary to Government, dated 14th March, 1871, desiring me to send in a detailed account of the result of my investigations with the guilt of these tribes with my report on the census of the other classes, ordered in Government letter No. 1455A. of the 17th November, 1870.

23. My statements, therefore, regarding these tribes have been somewhat contradictory. But the fact is that, after I

had sent in my first returns, in which some Tugga villages, and one Kolee village of the Deobund Tehseel were entered, I made further enquiries which led me to doubt whether infanticide is practised by the "Tuggas" and "Kolees" at all. In the cold weather I made enquiries in all parts of the district, the result of which was to lead me to the conclusion that though perhaps infanticide is practised occasionally by certain families, yet that, as a rule, the Tuggas and Kolees do not commit girl-murder. Mr. Tidy also came to the same conclusion; and this opinion is confirmed by the census; for in all villages in which the census was taken, and in which the minor population is over 25, the percentage of girls to boys is more than 40 per cent. The only villages which are suspected and in which the proportion of girls to boys is under 40 per cent. are situated in Pergunnahs Deobund and Nagul of the Deobund Tehseel. There are six such "Tugga" villages, and one Kolee village; and the latter is the one which was entered in my original returns with a percentage of girls to boys of 27.

24. The "Tuggas" are Brahman, and derive their name from the Sanscrit word "*tyag*," meaning to "refuse" or to "renounce." The story the "Tuggas" tell is that when Rajah Junmeejâ, who lived at Hustinapore about 50 centuries ago, held a royal ceremony and offered alms to all Brahmans, their ancestors refused to take alms, and that their descendants have never taken any since. Hence their name "Tugga." In some small details their habits differ from those of the orthodox Brahmans, but in all essentials their habits and customs are the same. Most of them take advances of money from the bridegroom's father on the marriage of their daughters, and this practice alone is strong *prima facie* proof that they do not destroy their daughters. The "Tuggas" and "Kolees" of Tehseel Deobund have probably adopted the practice of infanticide from the Rajpoots, in the midst of whom they have been living for so many years. The Rajpoots of that part of the district are, as I have already pointed out, the most guilty of the Rajpoots in the district, and there is no other

way of accounting for the guilt of the "Tuggas" and "Kolees."

25. Thero is no reason to believe (*vide* paragraph 6 of Government letter of the 17th November, 1870) that in villages where infanticide is practised girls of illegitimate birth are often allowed to remain alive. In this respect no distinction is made between legitimate and illegitimate children.

3. From C. A. ELLIOTT, Esq., *Officiating Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, to F. M. LIND, Esq., Officiating Commissioner, Meerut Division, 6th July, 1871.*

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of a report from the Officiating Magistrate of Saharunpore of the result of the census taken of clans guilty or suspected of practising female infanticide in the Saharunpore District, and in reply to communicate the following remarks and orders.

2. In his previous reports Mr. Jenkinson gave statistics of suspected classes which may be arranged as on the table noted below:—

	<i>Deobund.</i>	<i>Saharunpore.</i>	<i>Nukoor.</i>	<i>Roorkee.</i>				
	Children.	Percentage of girls.	Children.	Percentage of girls.	Children.	Percentage of girls.	Children.	Percentage of girls.
Goojurs	3,978	32	2,313	30	7,804	39	1,798	28
Rajpoots	4,333	32	1,302	29	1,334	42	115	27
Jâts	14	29	...	...	1,174	38	204	28
Tuggas.	1,807	27	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kolees	259	29	...	...	...	...	...	...

The sanction of the Supreme Government has been obtained to the proclamation of the Goojurs, Rajpoots and Jâts in the Tehsels specified.

3. Subsequently conflicting reports were received from Mr. Jenkinson regarding the guilt of the Tuggas and Kolees. Doubts were also felt as to the universal guilt of the Rajpoots,

Goojurs, and Jâts. It was determined, therefore, before notifying the extension of the law to any classes in Saharunpore, to await the more reliable statistics of a new census.

4. The census was taken on the 23rd February. The enumerators were generally Putwarees, the villages were arranged in circles, one official being placed over each circle, and these circles again were grouped into larger circles which were made over to Tehseeldars, Peshkars and Canoongoes. The returns of the Roorkee and Saharunpore Tehseels were tested by Mr. Tidy, and those of Deobund and Nukoor by Mr. Jenkinson. Apparently a general census of all suspected clans has not been taken. The enumeration was confined to 614 selected villages. Mr. Jenkinson does not give the result of the census in all villages, but only in those to which he proposes to apply the rules. They are in all 242 (or 235 omitting villages which occur in the statements twice over), which are distributed amongst the guilty classes in the four Tehseels, as detailed in the following statement :—

		Saharunpore Tehsel.		Roorkee Tehsel.		Deobund Tehsel.		Nukoor Tehsel.					
		Number of villages.	Number of children.	Percentage of girls.		Number of villages.	Number of children.	Percentage of girls.					
					Number of villages.		Number of children.	Percentage of girls.					
Goojurs	...	22	1,435	26	23	1,476	30	34	2,723	29	58	3,615	31
Pooreer Rajpoots	...	23	765	29	3	126	31	37	3,356	23	1	10	30
Other Rajpoots	...	6	172	21	...	...	...	5	134	27	7	413	28
Tuggas	6	1,520	27	...	...	...	...
Jâts	3	287	35	...	...	13	838	30	
Kolees	1	212	27	...	...	...	...

It would have been both interesting and useful had Mr. Jenkinson given the figures in the villages which he enumerated and did not consider guilty.

5. The six caste statements submitted give the details for each village Tehseelwar and Pergunnahwar. The following is an analysis of the statistics as regards each clan.

Goojurs.—All the villages selected have less than 40 per cent. of girls, except one. (Badhee Muzra) in the Nukeor Tehseel, which has a percentage of 40 on a total child population of 47. In 11 of these villages only is the child population less than 25. Mr. Jenkinson's statement (paragraph 13) that separate enquiries have shown these villages to be guilty, is accepted, and the clan will be proclaimed in all the villages selected. The Mahomedan Goojurs appear to be innocent. I am to enquire if Mr. Jenkinson can explain the cause which has given rise to this guilty practice on the part of the Hindoo Goojurs.

Rajpoots.—Mr. Jenkinson divides these into two classes, (1) Pooreers; (2) other Rajpoots. Ordinarily, this would not be considered a satisfactory classification. But in Saharunpore the Pooreers are the only really guilty clan: the other clans are inferior, and many have been converted to Mahomedanism. The whole of the villages will be proclaimed on Mr. Jenkinson's recommendation.

But I am to point out that in the three villages marginally*

noted, the percentage of girls is just 40 on a considerable number of children, and that probably on a close investigation

* Behra Buzoorg.
Bunkhundee.
Puroda Jât.

some families will be found who save their daughters, and these should be exempted from the operation of the rules. By the census of 1865, there were 243,630 Rajpoots in the district. The present enumeration affects but a very small portion of the whole number. Mr. Jenkinson has probably good grounds for not suspecting the tribe elsewhere than in the villages a census of which has been taken. I am, however, to enjoin great vigilance on the District Officer's, and to request that when on their tours of inspection they will not fail to institute enquiries so that no really guilty tribe or family may escape the law.

Jats.—By the census of 1865, there are in the District 13,386 Jats. The present census was taken in 48 villages, of which 16 are selected for proclamation. All of these have less than 40 per cent. of girls and more than 25 children. In the

last village (Nithoree) there are 39 boys to two girls. The selection is approved.

Tuggas.—These are said to be an impure Brahmin stock, and there are by the census returns of 1865, 17,107 in the district. The guilt of the six selected villages seems clear. In one village (Jurouda Panda) there are 647 boys and 223 girls, percentage being 25.

Kolees.—These are clearly guilty in the one village selected where the percentage of girls is 27 on 212 children. I am to beg that Mr. Jenkinson may endeavour to trace the cause of the crime in this village. By the census of 1865, there are in the district 4,715 of this caste. Why are they innocent elsewhere? What is the origin and history of the tribe?

6. A copy of the notification this day issued, extending the provisions of the law to the Rajpoots, Jâts, and Goojurs in the villages selected, is enclosed, and the Magistrate should be requested to take immediate steps to put in force the rules of repression. An application has also this day been submitted soliciting the sanction of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council to proclaim the Tuggas and Kolees in the localities specified. In anticipation of sanction, Mr. Jenkinson should proceed to make a nominal roll of the families in the guilty villages in the form prescribed by the Rules.

7. I am to request that you will convey the Lieutenant-Governor's thanks to Mr. Jenkinson for his very interesting and able report, and to add that the laborious investigation made by him and his staff is very creditable and satisfactory.

8. The report has a special value as throwing light on a vexed question, *viz.*, whether one guilty tribe corrupts another? Mr. Jenkinson has shown that in certain cases they do. For instance, the Pooreers are a powerful and turbulent clan, living in large numbers in the Deobund Tehseel, and they appear to set the tone to other clans in that neighbourhood. Five of the villages inhabited by guilty clans of "other Rajpoots" are also inhabited by guilty Pooreers; and the only cases of guilt proved against the Tuggas and Kolees are in Deobund. But it should be noted that the Pooreers themselves

are much less guilty in the parts where they are less numerous and clannish.

9. It does not appear, however, certain that a safo induction can be made in the present instance. First, the Tuggas and Kolees whom the Pooreers corrupt are low castes, and so are most of the "other Rajpoots" named by Mr. Jenkinson. That a strong clan can corrupt weak and spurious clans is very possible, but it does not follow that of two royal races living side by side, one would corrupt the other. Moreover, the induction as regards the corruption of "other Rajpoots" is not strong as shown above. Out of 18 guilty villages 5 only come within the scope of Pooreer influence.

10. In his concluding paragraph, Mr. Jenkinson states that he can discover no difference in the treatment by the guilty clans of illegitimate and legitimate girls. This conclusion is opposed to the experience of most District Officers; but it is only what might be expected among races whose blood is impure, and whose customs have degenerated and lost their virtues. It is supposed that most of these Rajpoots allow widow marriages, and the limit which separates legitimacy from illegitimacy is therefore very narrow.

11. Mr. Jenkinson remarks on the Tuggas that they take money for their daughters, and therefore are probably not guilty as a rule. He should follow up this line of argument in other cases, and ascertain the causation of the crime among those who are guilty.

12. The statistics in one respect are very remarkable as put in the following table :—

	Adults.	Minors.	Percentage of minors to total.
Goojurs	...	18,451	9,249
Pooreers	...	8,467	4,257
Other Rajpoots	...	1,308	719
Tuggas	...	3,025	1,520
Jat	...	2,105	1,125
Kolees	...	471	212

In all these cases the minor population appears abnormally large, and Mr. Plowden, in his census report, shows that 32 per cent. was the proportion of minors to adults in the whole of the North-Western Provinces, and it is reasonable to expect that it would be less in the clans where many girls are killed.

FURRUCKABAD.

4. *From E. MONTAGU, Esq., Officiating Magistrate, Furruckabad, to C. A. ELLIOTT, Esq., Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, 22nd March, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to state that when the census of Thakoors was taken, the names of individuals were not recorded, hence it will be necessary to have the census taken afresh.

2. I have the honor to report that the census was on the whole made carefully, the mistakes found being generally clerical.

3. Each officer tested a certain percentage and found that the returns, as a rule, were trustworthy.

4. I myself made enquiries in the Sudder and Chubramow Tehseeldaroes, and I have gone through the numbers of every Thakoor villages in the district, and I now write to say that in my opinion the labour of the District Officer can be a good deal simplified, and the rules worked with more force, if instead of the general condemnation of clans enjoined in the list forwarded with your letter a selection of the really guilty Thakoors be made.

5. Nothing struck me more during my enquiries than the fact that each village should be judged on its own merits. I have found almost invariably that where the higher six classes of Thakoors are in compact communities, or in sole possession of a village, girl-murder is prevalent; but where individuals of these six classes; viz., (1) Tonwur; (2) Chouhan; (3) Rathor, (4) Bhurdowariya; (5) Kuchwaha; (6) Sengur; are

scattered, and live amongst aliens, that as a rule they are innocent. Hence to proclaim the whole clan and to count its girls has the effect of merely raising the average of girl life in the guilty villages. I could give fifty instances of this immunity from crime on the part of scattered high-class Thakoors. In Gosurpoor, where the percentage of Rathor girls is eight (6 to 73 boys) and where no report of a birth of a girl has been made for two years, there is a Bhurdewariya who has two girls living. In Migholi, a Tonwur village, where there are 4 Tonwurs girls to 22 boys, a Chonhan has six girls living.

6. In Dhirpoor, where there are 9 Rathor girls to 34 boys, there are 2 Chouhan girls to 3 boys. In Murgaon (Rathor) where there are 140 boys of the Rathors to 37 girls, a Chouban has 2 boys and 1 girl, a Bhurdewariya the same in Urjunpoor (Purihar) where there are 6 girls to 19 boys, a Chouhan has 2 girls to 3 boys. These are instances taken at random, but if these facts are true of Chouhans, Tonwurs, and Bhurdewariya, how much more of Buchuls and Gours and the rest.

7. - *Secondly*,—I have found that in castes which are generally innocent, e.g., Gour, Chundel, Gihurwar, &c., girl-murder may happen in three cases : (1) if these villages are adjacent to the compact high class castes such as Rathor; (2) in the case of large villages as Pipurgaon (Nikoombh), where some rich man has married into a Chouhan or Rathor family; (3) if they have the villages to themselves. This latter case, however, is rare, and the two cases first named are sufficient. I shall illustrate these remarks further on ; but, as the result of my enquiries, I beg to state that I have with the greatest care selected 106 villages, which I think comprise all that are guilty to a heinous extent. I have disregarded the mere statistics in villages where the youthful population is less than 25, except in the case of the Rathors and Sombunsees. As to these two clans, I have inserted every village in which the disproportion between the sexes is at all remarkable. The result is that I find the following villages to deserve pro-

elamation, and I think that by confining ourselves to these alone and carefully enumerating the rest every year, we shall find the task of repressing the crime of child-murder more manageable; and at the same time shall encourage those who are least guilty to keep the average of girl life above a certain percentage.

	Number of Villages.		Number of Villages.
Rathor	... 44	Guliurwar	... 2
Chouhan	... 3	Chundel	... 2
Tonwur	... 1	Bais	... 3
Sengur,	... 1	Nikoombh	... 3
Kuehwaha	... 1	Solunkeo	... 2
Bhurdowariya	... 1	Gour	... 2
Sombunseeo	... 28	Baghel	... 1
Purihar	... 5	Ghilot and others	3
Ponwar	... 3	Kutiya	... 1
			<hr/>
			106

Of these the following show percentages of girls not over 25.

	Number of Villages.		Number of Villages.
Rathor	... 22	Nikoembh	... 1
Sombunseeo	... 6	Kuchwaha	... 1
Chouhan	... 1		<hr/>
			31

8. No clans in the district need any particular mention but the Rathors and Sombunsees.

9. The former inhabit villages in the Mohundabad pargannah, lying compactly to the south of the town of that name, and extending south-westward across the Kalee Nuddee to Chubramow. They have a small colony across the Ganges in the Allygurh Teliseeldaree by Rajepoor, Rathor. North of them are Gour villages, north-east (by Pipurgaon) Nikoombh, west of them a few Chundels and north-west (by Behar) a few Purihars and by Muddunpoor a community of Bachnis.

10. The Gours re-appear again north of Seeunderpoor. The Bais have a small colony in Sourikh and Sukrawah. The

Baghels (the Rajah of Tirwa's caste) are scattered about the Tirwa pergannah. Kunouj contains no Thakoors of any strength.

11. The Guhurwars live about Khudagnuj. There are several Bumtela communities near the city (by Baron). The Kaimgunj Tehseldaree is noted for Kutihars, while across the Ganges tho Sombunseos are in great force, mixed with Rathors, Bais, Ponwars and one or two Kutihars.

12. The Gours and Chundels, especially the former, are not noted for girl-murder, but the Gour villages of Jajpoor (and Rutunpore and the Chundel villages of Kilwapoore and Kurthia have apparently been perverted by the example of the neighbouring Rathors. Similarly the Nikoombhi villages of Pipurgaon, Jeitpoor, and Timarna are guilty, though surrounded by communities of their own caste, which are not given to this crime. Should all the Rathors be proclaimed, I beg to point out that needless annoyance will be caused to mouzah Chhousepoor (12 boys to 9 girls), Nugla Bhawani (15 boys to 16 girls), Beegamow (three boys to six girls), and others. These Rathor villages are close to the most guilty Rathor communities, Manda, Gosurpoor, &c., but the zemindars of some of them are not genuine Thakoors (though they are fast becoming genuine through the power of money), and hence the Rathor customs are not in full force. In Arsanees (22 boys to 4 girls) three of the four girls are daughters of one man, Kunnoo Singh, whose wife (a Raekuar woman) will not let him take life. This family ought to be excepted, and I merely mention the case in order to show that local knowledge is absolutely necessary, and that it would be unwise to give a blind adherence to figures, and to disregard facts more. It will be hardly possible, except at great expense, to supervise all the Thakoor families in the district. The chowkeedars never report births unless there is a quarrel amongst the zemindars, or unless they cannot help it, and minuto inspection will be absolutely necessary. That external pressure will effect much, I am confident. In Manda, I noticed that nearly all the girls were born either two years or six

months ago. There are eleven, one being about ten, one three years' old, four two years' old, one one year, and four under one year. Enquiring what could be the cause of this, I found that about two or three years ago there was a desperate quarrel amongst the zemindars, hence the chowkeedar began to report, and four girls lived. About last June, whether from the action of Government (Manda being near the Tehseelee) or from the fact that a Thakoor of Korikhera was sentenced to six months for concealing the death of a child, the female infants received a new lease of life, four being allowed to survive. A special officer, I should say, is required for the Rathor, Chundel, Gour, Purihar, Nikoombh - Tonwur and Sengur and Chonhan villages which extend from Bishengurh to the city (in all about 50), situated in the Sutler and Chubramow Tehseeldarees.

13. The ordinary Police could attend to scattered clans, and a separate officer would supervise the trans-Ganges villages. Should the proclamation be limited to the villages marked in the annexed list, the Canoongoes will have no trouble in recording the names of individuals, otherwise the census work will begin anew. I therefore await orders on this subject, and meanwhile the miscellaneous provisions of your Circular can be carried out.

5. From C. A. ELLIOTT, Esq., *Officiating Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, to E. MONTAGU, Esq., Officiating Magistrate, Furruckabad, 30th March, 1871.*

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 22nd March, being a report of the result of the census of clans suspected of practising female infanticide in the Furruckabad District.

2. In reply I am to state that, for the reasons assigned by you, the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to suspend for the present the introduction of the rules of repression in any villages, except the 106 specified in the list accompanying your letter under acknowledgment. But I am at the same time to call your attention to the statistics sent up by Mr.

Daniell with his letter, dated 4th August, 1870, and to say that in reporting the proclaimed clans or localities inhabited by the proclaimed clans which you would propose definitely to exempt, you ought to show in each case convincingly that those statistics were wrong, or else to supply other reasons for the exemption. A full and detailed report is looked for before final orders can be issued; meantime the nominal census should be at once taken of the 106 villages which you have selected.

3. In regard to the case mentioned by you of a single Rathor family in mouzah Arsanee, in which the daughters have been allowed to live, because the wife, a Raekuvari would not permit them to be killed, I am to refer you to paragraph 3 (b.) of Government Circular No. 366A., dated 14th March, and to state that it gives you full power to deal with such cases.

4. I am to refer you to paragraph 3 (/) of the Circular of 14th March, 1871, and to state that your proposal to appoint a special Police Officer to supervise the Rajpoots around and near Mohumdabad, cannot at present be sanctioned. If experience shows that the ordinary Police cannot cope with the crime, you should report the subject again after the lapse of a few months.

5. Extracts from your report, which is interesting and valuable, will be published in the North-Western Provinces' *Government Gazette* for general information.

ETAH.

6. From R. T. HOBART, Esq., Joint Magistrate, Etah, to F. LIND, Esq., Commissioner, Agra Division, 23rd March, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to report the manner and result of the census of guilty and suspected clans of Thakoors, which, in accordance with the instructions contained in Government

letter No. 1455A., dated 17th November, 1870, was carried out in this district on the night of the 15th of December last.

2. I may remark, *imprimis*, that some doubt was felt at first as to whether the census should be confined to suspected clans, or should extend to tribes already adjudged guilty. On conferring with you on your visit here, and on looking carefully at Section 4 of Government letter No. 1455A., dated 17th November, 1870, I determined to take a census of both classes. My inclination, too, was entirely that way, as from my personal enquiries in the early part of November in the villages, and from those made by my Deputy Collector, Balmokund, I had begun to suspect the accuracy of the census returns of 1864 for this district, and, as a matter of common sense, the enumeration which held good in 1864 might be anything but applicable to 1870.

3. My first thought, therefore, was to make such arrangements that the census returns should be, if humanly possible, perfectly accurate. I proceed to state my *modus operandi*. On receiving your orders, I had 1,500 of the prescribed forms printed off and sent to the tehsils, with clear and elaborate instructions. They reached the tehsils on the 2nd of December. The tehsildars were called into the sudder stations and their difficulties set at rest. The putwarees were all sent for to the tehsils, where they remained from the 4th till the 7th of December, receiving instructions and being practised in the method of filling in the returns. On the 8th, the putwarees of the guilty and suspected villages were sent to their hulquas to fill up their forms in duplicate. Meantime, circles were formed all over the district, within such a compass and of such limits that a single enumerator could in one night test all the entries in each circle, if necessary. The night of the 15th of December was appointed for the census by the enumerators. I was in considerable difficulty at first where to get my enumerators from, but on applying to the Settlement Officer, Mr. Ridsdalo, and to the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Koondun Lall, both these gentlemen very kindly

placed a number of their staff at my disposal. Besides these, all the tohseelee staff, except those actually engaged in receiving the Government revenue, all the sunder omlah who could be spared, our own mohurrirs in camp, and the bukshies, pound-keepers, &c., and a fair number of native gentlemen, were engaged in the work; and, on the whole, a most efficient staff was thus made up of different elements.

4. The enumerators were sent for to the tehsils, and carefully instructed in the way they were to act.

5. There were 701 guilty and suspected villages in the three tehsils. I left the formation of the enumerators' circles to the teliseeldars, and they formed 248 circles, and assigned an enumerator to each circle, on the principle that the circle should be near his work or home; the only exception to this being that school-masters were not made enumerators within their own school circles. I had now at my disposal 52 of my own staff, 95 men from the Settlement Department, 60 school-masters, and 41 Native gentlemen.

6. On the night of the 15th of December, at 9 p. m., the enumerators commenced their work.

7. The putwarees had previously filled in their forms in duplicate, and the Thakoors had been advised to be present. The enumerators then went about, and, by torchlight, tested the returns, and corrected the entries with red ink. The ink and torches were previously supplied by us, and their expense amounts to the trifling cost of Rs. 23-15-0.

I had intended that only 35 or 40 per cent. of the entries should be examined, but, as the circles were so small, it was found that all the entries could easily be attested. Instructions were accordingly issued to that effect.

8. The enumerators had been warned by the heads of their own departments that the entries would subsequently be tested during December and January by me and my assistants, and that any shortcoming would be very severely visited.

9. Having made these arrangements, I thought it would be well to set an example, and accordingly Mr. Mareel and

myself went down to Pergunnah Azimnugur (which is the worst in the district), where we each took up a large circle, and tested it on the night of the 15th. We had completed our attestation by twelve midnight ; and, judging from this fact, I was of opinion that no enumerator would have so great a burden imposed on him as to induce him to be careless or to shirk his work.

10. The enumerators made their corrections in both of the forms filled in by the putwarees. These forms were then lodged in the tehsilees, and one of them, after being impressed with the Government stamp, was returned for local use to the putwarees.

11. The returns required were then ordered to be prepared in the tehsilees. Owing, however, to the intervention of the holidays, there was some delay in their preparation, and then, owing to the reports and returns required in my English office for the past year, there has been delay in their translation.

12. I then divided the district off into plots for the attestation of the entries of the enumerators, and, taking a portion myself, made the rest temporarily over to Mr. Mareel, Rai Balmokund, and the three tehseldars.

13. Both Mr. Mareel and Rai Balmokund have worked indefatigably. The former gentleman and myself attested the entries in all the villages of the Azimnugur and Putialee pergunnahs except three before the 26th of December, while Rai Balmokund, before and after the census, enumerated the child population in 103 villages. Our united experience is the same. The correctness of the returns is surprising. Here and there a girl married into one of the suspected clans, not arrived at puberty, is entered in the child population ; but only three or four cases came to notice. We unfortunately had not the benefit of the catechism furnished in Memo. No. 47, dated 10th January, 1871, as a light to guide us ; but I do not think there was much harm done in consequence.

The difficulties proposed in the first five questions of that Memo. were happily solved in the same way here as they have since been by Government. Indeed, there was no question raised in the matter.

With regard, however, to the orders of Government as contained in their replies to Questions 6 and 7 of that Memo., I regret to say that no entries were made of absentee girls or men.

14. I would respectfully observe that once you begin in an investigation of this nature to admit the existence of any fact save on the evidence of your own eyes, you open a door to all kinds of deception and falsehood, even among a simple people like the majority of the Thakoors.

There is so much to gain by a lie, it is so easy to tell, and so hard to disprove.

15. I trust it will not be thought necessary to retake the census on account of these omissions. Soldiering as a profession is almost unknown in this district, while girls who have married and left their villages at an early age are few in number among our Thakoors.

16. The attestation of the census enumeration has continued up till date, and with the same result, *viz.*, a corroboration of the accuracy with which the work had been done.

17. The accurate statistics obtained from the census effect a considerable modification of the returns submitted on the 5th of August last. Those returns were mainly composed from the papers of the 1864 census, in which the Thakoors were not tribally arranged.

18. The result of the recent enquiries will be to confine the application of the law and rules to a much smaller compass than originally contemplated. I proceed to give the results of the census. In making my present recommendations, the principle contained in paragraph 8 of Government No. 1455A. has been carefully observed, and, save in a very few instances, only villages whose infantile population is twenty-five or over have been included.

19. The three tribes notorious for the crime in this dis-

trict are the Rathors, Chouhans, and Solunkees. The Rathor clan is the first in point of guilt and the third in point of numbers. In the whole district their girls only number 36 per cent. on the infantile population :—

	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>P. c.</i>
Rathors in whole district	... 2,972	2,236	1,591	886	36
Ditto in Etah Tehseel	... 560	426	262	201	43
Ditto in Kasgunj ditto	... 69	41	19	16	46
Ditto in Alleegunj ditto	... 2,343	1,769	1,310	669	34

The pergannah of Azimnugur is their great home. In more than one of their villages convictions for this crime have been obtained. In some of them the average is very low, as—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>
Ramnugur, with ...	... 36	5
Khursoleea, „ „	... 116	31
Gudhee „ „	... 40	8

The tribe is implicated by common rumour and statistics, and its leading family, the Rajah of Rampoor, sets a bad example, it is feared. I was at first inclined to advocate the extension of the Act to this tribe all over the district, but I now think such a measure would be unnecessarily harsh. I accordingly would apply it to the twenty-three villages in Azimnugur, and the three villages in Sonbar, named in Appendix A.*

20. *Solunkees*.—This clan is second in point of numbers and second in point of guilt. It numbers—

	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>P. c.</i>
For the whole district	... 3,245	2,104	1,703	1,123	39
For Tehseel Etah	... 236	178	91	88	49
Ditto Kasgunj	... 2,665	2,001	1,464	943	39
Ditto Azimnugur	... 344	225	148	92	33

This tribe is mainly confined to Tehseel Kasgunj, and musters strongest in Pergannah Sirpoorah. I would apply the Act to the twenty-two villages enumerated in Appendix A.*

21. *Chouhans*.—This is the most numerous clan in the district, and numbers—

	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Percentage.</i>
In the whole district, ...	6,259	4,688	3,015	2,058	41
In Tehseel Etah, ...	3,192	2,468	1,484	1,100	43
„ Kasgunj, ...	1,016	742	550	346	39
„ Aleegunj, ...	2,044	1,478	981	612	38

8. The sanction of the Supreme Government will be solicited for permission to proclaim the Rughbunsees and Gourahas, and a Notification has this day been issued extending the law to the other tribes and localities specified in Appendix A. of Mr. Hobart's letter, for the proclamation of which the necessary sanction has already been obtained.

9. Meanwhile the rules of repression should at once be put in force, both with respect to the villages now proclaimed and to those of the Gourahas and Rughbunsees who will be proclaimed hereafter.

10. Referring to paragraph 12 of Mr. Hobart's report regarding the Rajah of Rampore, I am to state that the Lieutenant-Governor has heard with great regret that a person occupying so influential a position among his countrymen as the head of the Rathors, should be so deeply suspected of the crime of female infanticide. It is hoped he will be the first to set the example of saving the female infants alive in his own immediate family and those over whom he has direct influence. Should he do so; Government will honour him in every reasonable way in its power, but should he act otherwise, the whole force of the law will be brought to bear upon him, with a view to repression and punishment of the crime, and those who commit and foster it. Mr. Hobart should specially report on his conduct within a year or so, so soon as time has been afforded him for watching the effect of the rules of repression on the maintenance of female infant life.

11. Adverting to paragraph 25 of the report, you are desired to invite Mr. Hobart's attention to Section 6 of Act VIII. of 1870, which will enable him to deal with cases of neglect by any person to make proper provision for the maintenance of any female child for whose maintenance he is legally responsible.

12. Mr. Hobart should make it widely known that so soon as any villages and families to which repressive measures are now applied begin to distinguish themselves by saving alive their female infants, they will be in a correspond-

ing degree exempted from the force of the rules. The only means of escaping the pressure of those rules is clear evidence that female infants when born are preserved.

13. The cost of the census should be debited to the guilty villages.

14. In conclusion, I am to observe that it is not stated whether a nominal registration was made at the recent census. It was the intention of Government that such should be made. If it has not been made, I am to request that it may be carried out at once in the proclaimed tracts.

ETAWAH.

8. *From C. W. MOORE, Esq., Officiating Magistrate, Etawah, to G. H. M. RICKETTS, Esq., Officiating Commissioner, Agra Division, 26th April, 1871.*

I HAVE the honor to submit statements and some brief remarks on the census taken of suspected Rajpoot and Aheer tribes in this District, under Government order No. 1455A., dated 17th November, 1870.

2. The census was taken on the evening of the 1st January, 1871, chiefly by the Putwarees; the results have been tested by European Officers as far as possible, and by the Tehseeldars. I believe the figures are now as accurate as can be expected. No trouble has been spared and wherever mistakes have been discovered they have been rectified.

3. In my letter dated 3rd August, 1870, I stated that it would perhaps be found that certain Aheers were guilty of the crime of infanticide, and I more particularly named the villages of Yarpoor, Palee kulkan, and Palee khoord.

I am happy to state, however, that the census just taken exonerates the Aheers not only of those villages but of other localities also from suspicion, and I propose no further action in regard to them, only remarking that the percentage of Aheer girls in Etawah is 42, and in Bhurtna 47.

6. The guilty tribes, as denominated by Mr. Turner are held to be (1) Goutum of the Goutum Gote; (2) Sengur of the Goutum Gote; (3) Purihar of the Kounsil Gote; (4) Chouhan of the Bueh Gote; (5) Bais of the Bharatdwaj Gote; (6) Gour of the Bharatdwaj Gote; (7) Chundel of the Chudrain Gote; (8) Kuchwaha of the Goutum Gote; and (9), Bhudoria of the Buch Gote.

7. (1).—The Goutums of the Goutum Gote are by far the worst of all the guilty clans. On a district total of 3,283 children, the percentage of girls is only 37. But in pergannahs Ghazeepore (229 children), Hutgam (79 children), and Ekdulla (34 children), the percentage of girls is between 50 and 45. The pergannahs with bad percentages are—

	Children.	Percentage of Girls.
Futtehpore ...	270	37
Kullianpore ..	1,971	35
Kora ...	700	39

It is proposed to apply the law to them in three villages—in Futtehpore (110 children), 19 in Kullianpore (1,014 children), and 3 in Kora (207 children). Statement II. shows at a glance that they are all guilty. Mr. Turner has done quite right in including the three villages with less than 25 children each. The only question is whether he has gone far enough. When the pergannah percentage of girls in any tribe is below 40 on a large number of children, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that exemption should be not by villages, but by families. Thus, families which could show a fair number of daughters, would escape.

8. Besides these Goutums, Mr. Turner, as noted above, treats separately the Goutums of the Bharatdwaj Gote. These have 37 children, and a percentage of 35 girls for the district. It is not proposed to apply the law in any case, because of the smallness of their numbers, and they are said to be much scattered. The figures show that they are open to suspicion in pergannahs Kullianpore and Ghazeepore. Whether the law should be applied depends upon the considerations urged in paragraph 3 of this letter, i.e., upon

whether they should or should not be treated as one with the Goutums of the Goutum Gote.

9. (2)—*Sengurs*.—These have a district percentage of 26 girls on 235 children. They are bad in all pergunnahs except Huttgum, (15 children, of which girls are 46 per cent.) Kora with only one child, and Ekdulla with none. Mr. Turner has selected only three villages—

	Boys.	Girls.
Pergunnah Futtelpore, Huswa ..	24	1
Ditto ditto, Gurliwa ...	24	12
Ditto Ghazepore, Gurhee ...	48	4

There appears to be sufficient grounds for applying the law to this clan generally in pergunnahs Futtelpore (101 children percentage 30), Kullianpore (59 children, percentage 30), and Ghazepore (59 children, percentage 10), only families with girls or no children being exempted.

10. (3)—*Purishers*.—These have 35 per cent. of girls on 400 children for the district. Two villages in Futtelpore and four in Kullianpore only are selected for proclamation. The law should be applied to the tribe generally in pergunnahs Futtelpore, Kullianpore, and Ghazepore, where the percentage of girls is below 40 on a fair number of children.

11. (4)—*Chouhans*.—Mr. Turner has treated separately the three Gotes notes below :—

Buchi.	Kassib.	Bharatdwarz.
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The first have 37 per cent. of girls on 568 children for the district. In only one pergunnah, Ghazepore (70 children), is the percentage of 40 reached. Mr. Turner would apply the law to three villages only; but there seem to be good grounds for applying it throughout the district except in pergunnah Ghazepore, exemption in all other cases being by families.

12. The second and third, supposing them to be distinct from the first, and from one another, are scared people with 25 and 14 children respectively in the district, and percentage of 28 and 35 girls. Their guilt is not perhaps established; but the returns are not very favourable. In respect of these,

the answer to the enquiry directed in paragraph 3 will be awaited.

13. (5)—*Baises*.—The following are treated separately:—

Sandel Gote.

Bharatdwaj Gote.

Tilokchundi Gote.

Gurg Gote.

The first has 47 per cent. of girls on 53 children; the third has only seven children altogether, and the fourth has 39 per cent. of girls on 38 children.

14. The first and third, the latter being a sub-division and not a Gote, appear innocent. The fourth is suspicious in pergannah Kullianpore (27 per cent. of girls on 11 children) but innocent in Futtehpore (44 per cent. of girls on 27 children). The second has 42 per cent. of girls on 1,824 children in the district. In only one pergannah (Kullianpore, 216 children and 35 per cent. of girls) is the percentage below 40. Mr. Turner selects one village in Ekdulla (24 boys to 6 girls), one in Hutgam (44 to 10), two in Futtehpore (33 and 42 boys to 13 and 19 girls), and one in Ghazcepore (33 boys to 20 girls). The percentages in these villages are undoubtedly bad, but it is strange that no village in pergannah Kullianpore is considered bad enough to proclaim when it is the sole pergannah in which the pergannah percentage is below the standard. That percentage establishes the guilt of the clan in Kullianpore; and, unless any good reasons to the contrary can be shown, the rules ought to be applied.

15. (6)—*Gours (Bharatdwaj Gote)*.—Percentage of girls is 45 on 410 children in the district. The pergannahs where the percentages are bad are Kullianpore with 39 per cent. of girls on 136 children; Hutgam with 38 per cent. on 26; and Ekdulla with 29 per cent. on 17. Mr. Turner would proclaim one village only, Mohar, in pergannah Kullianpore. Here there are 32 boys to 7 girls, and it is said that the tribe has been corrupted by other clans, Mohar being notoriously addicted to the crime. The bad percentage in Hutgam and Ekdulla may be accidental, but it is certainly suspicious and

should be carefully investigated. As to the Gours of the Kassib Gote, supposing them to be a distinct stock, the percentage of 38 girls on 34 children is suspicious, and they must be watched.

16. (7)—*Chundels*.—Have a percentage of 43 girls on 346 children in the district. The pergunnahs with low percentages of girls are—

	Children.	Percentage of girls.
Futtehpore	... 43	37
Kullianpore	... 167	40
Ghazeepore	... 13	31

Mr. Turner selects one village, Mundraon, of Kullianpore (25 boys to 8 girls). Its guilt is almost certain. It is possible that this village may have caused the rather low percentage shown for the pergunnah. The lower percentage shown for the Futtehpore and Ghazeepore pergunnahs is not noticed, and the cause should be proved.

17. (8)—*Kuchwahas*—of the Goutum Gote, have 39 percentage of girls on 260 children in the district. By pergunnahs the results are—

	Children.	Percentage of Girls.
Futtehpore	... 32	37
Kullianpore	... 141	37
Hutgam	... 11	27

One village only, Mohar, of Kullianpore, is selected with 12 boys to 1 girl. The clan is said to have been corrupted here. They ought not to be exempted without further inquiries in the pergunnahs where the percentages are bad. Mr. Turner has treated the Kuchwahas of the Bharatdwaj Gote separately. This Gote has 16 children and 44 per cent. of girls. As directed in paragraph 3, Mr. Turner should explain the distinction between the two Gotes.

18. (9)—*Bhudoria*.—Have a district percentage of 33 girls on 146 children. The pergunnahs with percentage of girls below the standard are—

	Children.	Percentage of Girls.
Kullianpore	... 92	27
Ghazeepore	... 18	38
Hutgam	... 20	4

Mr. Turner selects one village only, Googowlie, of Kullian-pore. Here the supposition is that they have been corrupted by the Goutums, who muster strong in this village. There are 13 boys to 2 girls in this village. No doubt they are guilty here, but there is apparently no reason for exempting the clan elsewhere.

19. There are some other clans besides the above that may be noticed.

(15.) (1.)—*Tomwurs*.—These are separately classified into three Gotes—Sandel, Kassib, and Bais. The returns on the whole are favourable.

(2.)—*Dikhits*.—These are classified into Bharatdwaj and Sandel Gotes. The returns for the first show that they should be watched in Kora and Hulgam, and the latter are open to suspicion in Ghazeepore. They are not, however, very numerous here. The result of the enquiry directed in paragraph 3 is awaited.

(3.)—*Sombunsees*.—Mr. Turner gives 10 children only to the tribe and 20 per cent. of girls.

(4.)—*Gulurwars*, 15 children and 20 per cent. of girls.

The last two clans should be watched.

20. No mention is made of the Soorujbunsees and Chunderbunsees. By the census of 1865, these clans numbered 9,125 and 14,434 respectively. I am to enquire if any enumeration of them was made, and with what results? Or are they not open to suspicion?

21. Mr. Turner remarks that some of the resident clans have been corrupted. The question of corruption is a moot one. It is quite conceivable that in a focus of infanticide like Mohar, all tribes with any tendencies in that direction would be encouraged in their evil ways, each by the other's example.

22. Mr. Turner's conclusions as to the guilt of the villages selected appear sound, and he should immediately introduce the rules of repression into those villages which

have been already proclaimed, preparing nominal registers of those and also of the other guilty villages which have not yet been proclaimed, but which will be proclaimed on receipt of the sanction of the Supreme Government, which has this

Proclamation authorized
by Govt. of India's; No.
tification not issued pend-
ing reply to this letter.

day been solicited. But, as shown above, His Honor doubts whether Mr. Turner has gone far enough. Unless good reasons be shown to the contrary, every pargannah which shows a bad percentage for any elan on a fair number of children ought to be made amenable to the rules, the exemptions in such cases going by families only.

23. I am to request that Mr. Turner may re-consider his proposals with reference to the above remarks.

ALLAHABAD.

14. *From T. W. RAWLINS, Esq., Assistant Magistrate of Allahabad, to J. C. ROBERTSON, Esq., Officiating Magistrate, Allahabad, 30th May, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to make the following report on the census of the Rajpoot clans in the Barah and Athurbun Pargannahs, taken by me during the last cold season, in accordance with the directions contained in No. 1455A. of 1870, from the Officiating Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces.

2. In that letter it was directed that a census should be taken (1) of the Rajpoots of certain villages in those pargannahs regarding whom an unfavourable report had been submitted based on my census of the previous year, and (2) of the Rajpoots in suspected localities throughout the district. It had already been ascertained that there was no reason to suspect the existence of the practice of female infanticide out of Barah and Athurbun. I therefore again took a census in the prescribed form of those two pargannahs.

3. The results of this census I believe to be perfectly trustworthy. In addition to the test of enquiry on the spot, there was an admirable means ready at hand for ascertaining the correctness of the Barah returns at least in a comparison with those of the census I myself made the previous year. I have taken full advantage of this, and have invariably found all discrepancies satisfactorily explained by a death, a birth, the marriage of a girl and her consequent removal from the village, or a transfer from the juvenile to the adult columns.

4. The returns for each village have been compiled in a vernacular register, but I have prepared for submission in English a detailed register of the returns regarding the prescribed villages and clans, and abstracts of the Pergunnah Register. Abstract A. shows under each village in respect of each clan found in it, the number of families, the number of boys, the number of girls, and the number of each aged one year or less. In the following form I have given the totals of this abstract in respect of each of the census at Barah and the last census at Athurbun :—

	Village.	Clans.	Families.	Boys.				Girls.					
				Under one year.	Over one year.	Married.	Unmarried.	Total.	Under one year.	Over one year.	Married.	Unmarried.	Total.
Barah.													
1869-70	...	93	35	503	...	...	...	429	...	...	...	...	412
1870-71	...	103	37	596	51	449	...	500	51	428	...	...	479
Athurbun.													
1870-71	...	59	34	658	40	441	...	481	34	425	...	...	459

The large increase in numbers in each column of the Barah return compared with that of the previous year is due to the large number of births in the year, and to the enumeration of ten villages which escaped notice last year.

5. In twenty only of the 162 villages enumerated does the child-population exceed 25, the lowest number which will render a village liable to restrictive measures on the ground of statistics alone; and in the four following only does the proportion of girls approach that which is necessary to place a village on the prescribed list:—

Barah,	Biharia,	... 19 boys	12 girls	38.7	per cent.
Athurbun	Oono,	... 22 „	15 „	40.4	
	Puchim Surira	41 „	26 „	38.8	
	Shah Alamabad	20 „	7 „	25.9	

6. Abstract B. gives under each clan the same information of its numbers throughout the pergunnah that is contained in Abstract A under the head of each village. Of the 37 clans in Barah and the 34 in Athurbun, in eleven only of the former and five of the latter does the child population of the clan throughout the pergunnah exceed 25; and in only one of these, the Chouhan tribe in Barah, does the percentage of girls fall below 40.

It has now become necessary to propose a modification of the list of prescribed villages. That list was forwarded for sanction before the preparation of the rules that have now come in force, and was founded on the principle that a percentage of 35 girls to a child-population in a clan or village of 15 would suffice to place the clan or village on the list. The percentage has now been fixed at 40, and the lowest aggregate population necessary to justify the application of restrictive measures on statistics alone has been fixed at 25. In none of the villages in these pergunnahs does there exist any reasons but that a rising from statistics and the general one that at one time the crime was prevalent, to justify the belief that it is now practiced. I myself believe that as a practice it has almost ceased in this district and would soon die out of itself. In the following list I have excluded from each village the name of any clan in which the percentage is not

HUMEERPOOR.

16. From H. A. HARRISON, Esq., Officiating Magistrate, Humeerpoor, to G. H. M. RICKETTS, Esq., Officiating Commissioner Allahabad 8th March, 1871.

As directed in paragraph 7 of No. 1455, dated 17th November, 1870, I have the honour to submit my report on the census of the Rajpoots inhabiting this district.

2. Letter No. 1455 was received with No. 1638A., dated 16th December, 1870, and on its receipt I directed the enumeration to be made on the 15th January, and I issued full instructions how the same was to be made. The whole of my Tehseel establishments were employed on the day fixed in the work ; to each officer a circle was made over, and he was directed on the 15th to be present at the enumeration in one or more villages where the largest number of the clans, named in letter No. 1638, resided, besides supervising the census generally within his circle. He also after the enumeration tested its correctness. The circles were apportioned to the officers according to their importance ; for instance, in Raat the Tehseeldar himself took the circle in which Mul-haita, Mujgaon, &c., are, and which are inhabited by Pun-wars, who are by far the most guilty clan inhabiting the district. In Humeerpoor the Tehseeldar was present at Tehra inhabited by Guhurwars, and in other pergannahs the circles were apportioned on the same principle.

3. Since the census was taken, it has been tested by the Tehseeldars, Canoongoes, &c., and I and Mr. Martin have also tested the returns in numerous villages. From my own testing, and from that of Mr. Martin, it appears that the enumeration has been well done ; as but very few mistakes have been found.

4. The census has been taken in form Appendix C. of letter No. 1455A., dated 14th November, 1870 ; and, with a view of showing concisely the result of the census, I have prepared the returns I now submit. In the one I have grouped all the villages inhabited by each clan together, according to pergannahs, showing separately the Rajpoot

population of each village : in the other, I have showed the result for each clan in each pargannah, and in the whole district. The returns submitted are in the form Appendix C. with three columns added to show the total number of male and female children, with the proportion held by the latter to the total child population.

5. The enumeration of all the Rajpoots throughout the district has been taken. I will now first remark on the result as it effects the clans entered in Appendix A. of No. 1638A., dated 16th December, 1870.

Purihars of Pergunnah Raat.—These I find, although the same clan, are from purer descent a higher branch than the Purihars in the other pargannahs. The census shows 27 per cent. of girls only. The clan practices infanticide more than any other clan in the district ; in fact, until within six years, hardly any female children were allowed to live.

Dikhits.—These have been proclaimed throughout the district, and rightly so. In no pargannahs is the average of female children a good one, and the census proves, what was known before, that this clan is guilty of infanticide.

Goutums.—This clan also has been rightly proclaimed ; for, though in some pargannahs the average rises above 40, yet there can be no question of the guilt of the clan. In pargannah Soomairpore the average is 43 ; but yet in that very pargannah in the village of Soroulee Boozoorg, there are 81 girls to 164 boys, or an average of 33, and with so large a child-population this ratio, unless infanticide was practiced, could not exist.

Guhuricars.—The present enumeration is much more favourable to this clan than shown in return submitted with my No. 94, dated 29th July, 1870. The average of girls now is 42, there being 68 boys to 50 girls. The Tehseeldar himself was present at the enumeration in the village of Tehra, where nearly all the child-population is to be found. The average is not what it should be, and I would not therefore alter the orders issued regarding it.

under the ban of suspicion by Mr. Hobart. As a whole, this clan seems wonderfully free from the taint of the crime, though the Tilokehundee Bais in Ondh were once the leaders of the movement. The nine villages referred to had, in 1868, 97 boys to 31 girls; but the totals now are 102 and 41 (71: 29), so that the girl population has already increased by *five per cent.*

64. In the far north of the district will be found four villages of Hanra Thakoors—a distinguished branch of the Chowhans, but now quite distinct from them, and rarely to be met with throughout these Provinces. In 1856 the girl population was at zero; and Mr. Moore was justly severe on the four unhappy villages. In 1868, Mr. Hobart found six daughters of the tribe, and in 1871 I recorded 13, so that here too the increase is encouragingly good. No marriage of a daughter, however, has yet taken place within the memory of the oldest inhabitant.

65. It is needless to go into the details of the few remaining villages, included in the 216, belonging to certain other Rajpoot clans; whose numbers do not afford ground for a proper generalization, any more than their received character justifies special mention or interference; but which were entered in the suspected list on the statistics of *one or two individual villages*—a foundation, to my mind, not very safe for general purposes, but sufficiently so in the exceptional circumstances of such enquiries as the present. In almost every one there is a change for the better; but any details worthy of mention will be given in the next part of this report, which treats of the present state of the district as I found it in 1871.

66. And now, having drawn this somewhat tedious comparison to a close, and reviewed the present as contrasted with the past state of the district, in connection with the chief clans and villages,—to what general conclusion do the figures as thus collated point? Three years have passed away since Mr. Hobart's list was drawn up with careful minuteness; but no action of any kind was taken till the

present enquiry was set on foot, and a general census of all suspected villages called for. While legislation in regard to other matters has, from 1856 and onwards, been rapidly progressing—and great reforms have been ripe—nothing up to last year (1870) was vouched safe in regard to the all-important question of how best to check and suppress a notoriously wide spread crime, of a character at once so heinous in itself, so barbarous in its tendencies, and so terrible in its consequences. Yet, limiting ourselves to these three last years, and despite this "*laissez faire*" policy—an improvement which in the circumstances may justly be termed *great*, a general advance of *three per cent.* in the girl population of these 216 suspected villages has been effected. Though still far below its normal level, that percentage bids fair to rise, at no distant date, to its proper and natural standard. This end will be mightily hastened—this goal will be the more speedily attained by the application to these clans and villages of the admirable Rules prepared, under Act VIII. of 1870, for the suppression of female infanticide. And arguing from the past to the future, from the known to the unknown, from experience to hope, may we not venture to predict that this is indeed the beginning of the end.

67. Having thus shown, from two different stand points,
Part third. the comparative state of the district
as regards the villages formerly de-

signified suspicious, and entered as such in their respective lists by Messrs. Moore and Hobart, it only remains to state concisely the result of my own experience, irrespective of previous statistics, during my personal enquiry in the early months of 1871. At the same time, the chief points of interest and importance have really been forestalled and anticipated by these previous remarks; for though new ground was trenched on by me, the matter was in itself an old one, and it is only by contrasting the state of things

now with their condition *then* that any intelligible scrutiny can be made, and any reliable opinion formed as to the prevalence of infanticide at the present day.

68. As I said before, the recent investigations by Mr. Hobart really preclude both the necessity and the possibility of importing new matter into any such enquiry as the present. And in my comparatively simple, though laborious, census work, I would have been quite safe in accepting as the basis of operation the list of villages examined and recorded by him. I was aware that any divergence from his carefully prepared list (containing a total of 216 villages) would probably be labour lost. But as this was the first overt action taken by Government in the great work of stamping out the noxious growth and suppressing the barbarous practice; and as, under the Act, the *entire district* was proclaimable, if not proclaimed, I deemed it my duty to extend my enquiries as far as possible; and with this object I visited a large number of Rajpoot villages which had not previously attracted attention. In this way my records included, at the close, about 400 villages, scattered all over the district, but chiefly in the suspected pergunnahs of Amoora, Ourungabadnugur, and Munsoormugur Bustee.

I was convinced of the ~~want of~~ ^{reason,} fresh growth, to be accuracy and completeness of Mr. Hobart's list, and of the fact that within his list the "*crème de la crème*" of guilty villages was to be found. Nevertheless, the additional labour did not prove to be altogether futile, as will be seen below.

70. The work in which I was engaged had a twofold aspect,—*first*, taking the census of suspected villages; *second*, concluding as to what villages should be subjected to the action of the new law. This sequence, if hardly logical (for suspicion should naturally follow statistics), will explain itself when I add, that I considered all Rajpoot villages *prima facie* suspicious, and threw as it were on their statistics the "*onus probandi*," so far as exemption from the new procedure was concerned. I was thus necessitated at the outset

(at least as regarded new villages) to determine a criterion by which to gauge the reasonableness, in special cases, of the general suspicion attaching to all Rajpoot villages in the district. I found that my predecessors had adopted the standard of 35 as the lowest percentage of girl population compatible with exemption from suspicion, but that they had not hesitated to transgress this self-imposed rule in special circumstances. I was of opinion that although no standard had been authoritatively and definitely fixed for the present enquiry, yet the suggestion of 40 per cent. as the limit of female minor population was the most just and reasonable in the circumstances, and that all villages, with a girl percentage *under this mark*, should be primarily amenable to the Act. For although 35 per cent. might, *ceteris paribus*, form a very fair standard from which to examine castes and clans on whom express suspicion did not rest, or had not been substantiated here or elsewhere, the case was very different where, as in this district, the practice of infanticide was a notorious fact in numerous Rajpoot villages. All villages under 40 per cent. I therefore designated suspicious.

71. How then did the statistics of the 400 villages which I visited, and whose population, adult and minor, I carefully recorded, bear out the character of the district as previously drawn in such dark colours? Among the 216 villages of Mr. Hobart (which included *a fortiori* the more limited number examined in 1856 by Mr. Moore), I found that the interval of three years had raised 26 above the prescribed level, and that the remaining 190 were still below the mark. These 190 of course constituted the vast majority of the very worst cases in the district. And of the remaining 200 villages, which I now examined for the first time, I only found reason for suspicion on the basis of statistics in the case of 42. These 42, however, were not only bad in themselves as showing an abnormally low girl population, but they were all more or less connected with others in which infanticide was notoriously practised. Thus the total number of villages actually under the 40 per cent. stan-

dard amounts for the present to 232. In regard to these 232 villages but one course is open, that of immediate action under the law,—which will be the means, I trust and believe, of saving much life and preventing much crime.

72. But I am not of opinion, so far as my limited experience goes, that it would be expedient *at once* to except even the 26 villages (whose percentages are not below the level of 40 per cent.) entered in Mr. Hobart's list of 1868. It will be no difficult matter, in the course of a year or two, and when the law is in full force, to come to a clearer understanding as to their status; and to exempt or retain them according to circumstances. For the immediate present, however—considering that up to a very recent date they were entered in the suspected list after a careful and elaborate enquiry—considering also their surroundings and circumstances, their habits and associations—I would strongly recommend that they meanwhile be retained in the list of villages under surveillance. In this view, the 216 of Mr. Hobart, and the 42 now added by me, give a total of 258 villages (*vide Annexure No. III.*) to be brought under the operation of Aet VIII. of 1870. As recurring opportunities of revising the census arise, the list may be modified or extended. At present, to include more would be as useless as to exclude any would be dangerous.

73. The remarks that follow then will be made on the understanding that in all of these 258 villages (with their 2,235 families or households), the proclamation, potential as against the entire district, will become an actual fact; and that proceedings in regard to them, already commenced in anticipation of permission, will be sanctioned by Government. Beyond the restraint imposed by a careful registration system, and the trifling assessment necessary to bear current expenses under the Aet, nothing of a very unusual character will be inaugurated, save in those villages where the girl percentage is under 25 out of every hundred minors. And here I would take the opportunity of submitting that to except from the operation of the law villages in which the entire

minor population is under 25, would be, as my experience shows me, simply putting a premium on the practice in many a Rajpoot village. It must not be supposed that a large population is any essential element in the crime and its practice. Wherever it has once gained ground on the score of pride or custom, or otherwise, and where pecuniary interests are at work in the same direction, the practice will be found to exist, though there be but one Thakoor household in the village, and but one girl born in that household. This fact was firmly impressed on my mind during personal enquiries in numerous villages—large and small. If it were the case that suspected villages were really few and far between, then there would be fair ground for more caution and deliberation before proceeding to characterize as suspicious a village where, the minors being few in number, the boys preponderated even to an unusual extent. It is a well known fact that our own social system can produce many instances of abnormal proportions (or disproportions) between the sexes, sometimes on one side and sometimes on the other; and nothing would be more unjust than to argue that because in a certain family the boys outnumbered the girls *ergo* female infanticide is there practised. This would be an induction of the most illogical character. To generalize from exceptional cases is tantamount to begging the question. But when not one, but scores of villages, in the same neighbourhood, and of the same clan, are found to present one after another the same features, and when too these features are opposed to the course of nature, as exemplified universally elsewhere, we may well refuse to adopt the argument of "insufficient basis," and, proceeding on the simple ground of facts and figures, conclude that *they* are the best exponents of the character of a village (whatever be its population) till the reverse be proved. In this view I earnestly hope that such villages as contain an entire minor population of less than 25, but in which, for one reason or another, the element of suspicion is found, will, one and all, be retained on the list, either alone or grouped along with others

into circles, till a different course is found to be expedient and necessary.

74. On the basis then of the 258 villages recorded in the suspected list (Annexure No. III.), I find that of children born since the mutiny, the totals are 4,374 boys to 1,531 girls—the latter being thus about 26 per cent. of the entire minor population. If, however, the 26 villages previously referred to be omitted, the girl percentage of the remaining 232 villages will fall under 25. When it is remembered that the general female percentage of all classes as recorded in the 1865 census was 45, and that this was heavily weighted with the low Rajpoot averages, the enormous contrast between the girl population in these villages and in other castes will be strikingly apparent. Roughly speaking, for every 50 boys in a Brahmin or Kayeth village, there is a like number of girls, the births are usually very much on a level; but in a corresponding Rajpoot village, the proportion loses its equality and becomes something like 75 to 25 per hundred.

75. Of these 258 villages, 26, as formerly mentioned, have a girl population above 40 per cent.; 107 are between 25 and 40; 123 show a proportion *under* 25; while two have at present no minor population. The relative position of these classes on the percentage basis is as under:—

(1.) Above 40 per cent. ... 26 villages, or 10 per cent. of the whole 258.					
(2.) Under 40 per cent., but above 25 per cent. ... 107	"	or 42	"	"	
(3.) Under 25 per cent. ... 123	"	or 47½	"	"	
(4.) Without minor popu- lation	... 2	"	or ¾	"	"
Total ... 258			100		

76. Of the 123 under 25 per cent., I find that no less than 38 are unable to produce a single daughter born since the mutiny, while the boys in these 38 villages number 260; that 24 villages have a female minor population under 10 per cent., their totals being 504 boys to 42 girls, in the proportion of 92 to 8 per hundred; and that the remaining 61 villages (from 10 to 25 per cent.) contain of boys 1,449 and of

girls 327, being 82 per cent. of the former to 18 of the latter. It will thus be seen that the minor population of the villages under 25 per cent. (all of them notoriously bad) amounts to 2,213 boys and 369 girls, with an average percentage of 86 to 14. They contain more than half the entire number of boys found in the whole 258 villages, while of the total girls they exhibit only one-fifth part—leaving to the 107 (between 25 and 40) and the 26 (above 40) 2,161 boys to 1,162 girls, in the proportion of $65\frac{1}{2}$ to $34\frac{1}{2}$ per hundred.

77. These 258 villages are scattered, more or less, over seven pargunnahs of the district—being found to some extent in all except Benaiikporo West, which is connected more than any other with the contiguous district of Goruckpore. Although, however, each of the seven pargunnahs contains villages on which suspicion has been found to rest, the guilty villages are by no means equally distributed. Of the three pargunnahs most concerned with the present enquiry, Amorha stands first, both in the number of suspicious villages and in the degree of suspicion incurred, including within its six tuppas the most persistent votaries of the crime. Of the two that follow next, the Ourungabadnugur villages, though not numerous in themselves, are at once the larger, more populous, and more open to suspicion; but Munsoornugur Bustee is not far behind. Both, however, play a very subordinate part as compared with Amorha; while both are far more deeply implicated than any of those that remain. The other four pargunnahs are comparatively unimportant; only one of them (Ruttunpore Bansee) found a place in Mr. Moore's report; and of the villages now entered as suspicious in the remaining three, some are offshoots of suspected clans whose real home is elsewhere—while others are stray villages of different tribes, which have been entered not on the ground of notoriety or connection with well known guilty clans, but simply on the basis of statistics. In the case of individual villages, statistics may not always be a sure foundation on which to proceed; abnormal proportion of male and female births may be an anomaly capable of explanation on no other ground than that of nature and natural

causes : but the fact (1) that such villages are Rajpoot villages, and (2) that their girl population is under the mark, justifies (at least for the present) their entry in the suspected list. The following table will epitomize briefly and clearly the part these pergannahs play in the infanticide drama, and the extent to which, after careful enquiry, suspicion has been found to rest on each :—

Pergannah.		Number of suspected Villages.	Percentage.				
Amorha	...	160	About 62 per cent. of the whole.				
Ourungabadnugur	...	27	"	10	"	"	"
Munsoornugur Bustee	...	21	"	12	"	"	"
Ruttunpore Bansoo	...	10	"	4	"	"	"
Muholee	...	11	"	4	"	"	"
Hussunpore Mughur	...	9	"	4	"	"	"
Russoolpore Ghous	...	10	"	4	"	"	"
Total	...	258	100.				

78. Of the 160 villages found in Amorha, 88 are below 25 per cent., and 28 of these are utterly girlless. Ourungabadnugur has two without daughters out of the 13 villages below 25 per cent.; while Munsoornugur Bustee, with 9 villages under that mark, has also two in which there has been no daughter born since the mutiny of 1857. Divided over the other four pergannahs are the remaining 13 villages whose girl population fails to attain to the limit of one-fourth of the

entire minor population. As the 25 per cent. under the new rules is a point of the utmost importance, and lays such villages as come below it under peculiar obligations and restrictions, it may be well to state in tabular form the details of the 123 villages in which registers of pregnancy—not to speak of births and deaths—will fail to be kept up :—

Pergunnah.	Number of Villages under 25 per cent.	Percentage of the whole 123.
Amorha	68	72 per cent.
Ourungabadnugur	13	11 "
Munsoornugur Bustee ...	9	7 "
Ruttunpore Bansee ...	4	3 "
Munolee	5	4 "
Hussunpore Muglur ...	1	1 "
Russoolpore Ghous ...	3	2½ "
	123	100.

Thus again, in evil pre-eminence, Amorha heads the list; while the two that follow, though far behind the first, distance all the others—Ourungabadnugur having in itself as many of these ill-omened villages as the remaining four pergannahs, and Munsoornugur Bustee having more than the aggregate of Ruttunpore Bansee, Hussunpore Muglur, and Russoolpore Ghous.

79. Looking once again from the pergannah stand point on the basis of the *total number* of boys and girls in each, how do we find matters to stand? Of course the proportion all round (of the totals) usually varies with the number of villages as the proportion of percentages does with the clans and races. But occasionally we find, as for example in Ourungabadnugur, that a smaller number of villages may turn out a comparatively denser population. The Goutum villages of Ourungabadnugur exhibit in a marked degree sub-division; and the families in whom the zemindaree rights are vested are peculiarly loath to quit their homes. The consequence is that each household becomes the centre of a number of subsidiary families, all of them unwilling to abandon the ancestral dwelling; and as they are generally not disposed to hold other-

Bustee still boasts a Kulhuns Rajah as its local chief. The royal families in each case belonged to the three great clans with which they were connected, and over which their rule extended ; had long been settled here ; and had given to those families a permanency of location which no one else was vouchsafe. Of the two other titular sovereignties in the district, Mahson (also Soorujbuns) seems really an off-shoot of the Amorha house ; while Bansee, in the far north, is the seat of the Sirnet Thakoers. Although the Sirneyts hold numerous villages along the Nepaul frontier and throughout the northern pergunnahs, they have never been found open to suspicion, and contribute but five villages, none of which are much below the average, to the suspected list. So that in speaking of representative families and their localities, in connection with the practice of female infanticide, the Sirneyts may safely be left out of account.

83. With the head-quarters of their royal families located in their midst, with all the force of old associations binding them to the spot, with the growth of population and the progress of time, it is only natural that the Soorujbuns in Amorha, the Goutum in Ourungabdnugur, and the Kulhuns in Munseernugur Bustee, should have transferred in great measure to these localities their own characteristics and peculiarities ; and this is so much the case that the pergunnah and the clan have become almost convertible terms. Omitting the Sirneyts, with whom the present enquiry has happily little to do (and on whom the healthy influence of their chief has been exerted with the best results), with no other clan do the above remarks as to locality and prominence hold good. The Hanras own but four small villages, and are strangers in the land ; the Bais have no special locality which they can call their own, though they are rich in scattered villages. So too the Burwars, Chouhans, and Kousiks, who follow next in order ; and so too finally the Bisens, Gurgunsees, Rajkomars, Raekwars, Bandhulgotees, Rathors, &c., who contribute here and there one or two outlying villages to the suspected list. Thus it is that in coming to

review the district from the stand point of *diverse clans and families*, it must be borne in mind that the prominent part is played (1) by the Soornijsbunns; (2) by the Gontums and Kullums; (3) in a less degree by the Bais, Burwar, Chouhan, Hanra and Konsik; and (4) to a still smaller extent by the few representatives of such tribes as remain. Repressive measures, to be effectual, must be taken with special reference to the three clans first-named; it is among them that they will have most room for action; and it is there that, if properly carried out, they will have the most lasting and beneficial results. With these few explanatory remarks, I proceed to glance shortly at the statistics recorded on the basis of race.

84. Foremost among all the guilty clans stand the Soornijsbunns Rajpoots. Holding (along with the Gontums) the highest position among their fellow-caste men in the neighbourhood, they have ever been unwilling to mate their daughters with any but the noblest of their race, and have long been notorious for the wholesale practice of female infanticide. Out of the 160 suspected villages found in the Amorha Pergunnah, they contribute 123; while some others, located elsewhere, make up their total of 127. The entire minor population of these 127 villages, i. e., of those born subsequent to the mutiny, amounts to 2,208 boys and 664 girls, in the proportion of 77 to 23 per hundred. The general average of the clan is thus below the standard of what may be termed *blood-red villages* (25 per cent.); and this is of itself ample ground for the inference, were inference necessary, that the practice of the crime is still rife throughout the six tuppas which constitute Amorha. Among these 127 villages, 77 actually fall under the 25 per cent. limit, many of them very much below it; while of the 77, *four and twenty* are utterly daughterless, and fail to produce a single girl born within the last fifteen years. The girl percentage of the Amorha pergunnah, taken as a whole, was found (*vide* paragraph 80) to be 24: that of the Soornijsbunns villages is 23—a difference of one per cent. only. From this it will be seen to how

groat an extont tho pergunnah is constituted by the clan, and how intimately tho territory is connected with the race—the small difference of one per cent. being due to the counter-balancing influence of a foreign element, comprising some 30 villages of different and less guilty tribes.

85. These general totals of the Soorujbuns villages are not, however, to be accepted as a fair embodiment in figures of the condition of all classes or sub-divisions included in the clan. The Soorujbuns families, though united by the bond of a common ancestry, though belonging, all of them, to one Gote or clan (the Bharatdwaj), do not form such a homogeneous whole as is commonly supposed. They are split up into two great divisions, the first division including two sub-classes; and separated from the second by a broad demarcation line. The original element of the Soorujbuns clan has branched off into the two classes of *Baboo*s and *Koours*; while these have been supplemented gradually by a new element, the *Thakoors proper*, also members of the Soorujbuns tribe, but who brought with them, from the Thakoor Settlements in Oudh, a lower-typed graft of the family tree. As representatives and descendants of what was once the royal race of Aminorha, the Babooos and Koours take precedence of the Thakoors; and the fact that the former families *do*, while the latter as a rule *do not*, intermarry with the Sirnets is one result of this difference of status among the members of the clan. The Babooos and Koours are very much on a level; but the Babooos are admittedly the "*primi inter pares*," and take the first place as a matter of right. This privilege they owe, I believe, to the fact of their being descendants of the older branch of the original family, while the Koours trace back their origin through the representatives of the younger line. It remains to be seen what position must be accorded, in the present enquiry, to these three great families; and with this view I have carefully discriminated between the villages belonging to each. Occasionally they are found partially intermixed, where common rights had been inherited or acquired; but

these instances will have no appreciable effect on my conclusions.

86. The Baboos of the clan own and inhabit 45 villages out of the total 127 contributed by the Soorujbuns families to the suspected list. I found the minor population of these 45 villages to be of boys 761 and of girls 209 ; giving a proportion of $78\frac{1}{2}$ to $21\frac{1}{2}$ per hundred. Twenty-eight of their villages—more than half the entire number—are under the 25 per cent. standard, and 10 of the 28 are without a single girl. To these Baboo families belong certain lesser subdivisions, off-shoots from the central stock, to which reference has already been made in the comparison between statistics of 1868 and 1871, on the basis of Mr. Hobart's list. Such are the Baboos of Bhudawar Kullan, still, as formerly, specially notorious , whose 10 villages show but 15 girls to their 231 boys (6 to 94 per cent.), and in one of whose villages (Gobhia) there are 54 boys and not a single girl : the Ramgurh Baboos, in seven of whose villages I found 108 boys and 25 girls, and those of Pertabgurh, two of whose villages contain of boys 36 and of girls 10. All these are examples, on a smaller scale, of what the clan is on a greater ; and the same result will be found, if, proceeding still further down, we analyze individual villages, and come at last to the family units.

87. The Koours of the Soorujbuns clan form the largest of its sub-divisions—holding 54 villages out of the 127. The boys in their villages number 984, the girls amount to 258, and the general proportion is thus 79 to 21 per hundred, or half per cent. lower than the girl percentage of the Baboos. Of villages under 25 per cent., the Koours have 37, and 11 of these are daughterless. A lesser branch of this family has its centre in Pukherwa Kullan, and contains, in 23 of its villages, 444 boys to 70 girls, or 87 to 13 per hundred ; while the Nagpore Koours in 19 of their villages, show an average of 78 to 22 on their totals of 283 and 80. The terrible disproportion of the sexes is nowhere more marked than among the Koours of Amorha.

88. Lastly, of the Soorujbuns Rajpoots, come the *Thakoors proper*. Unconnected with the previous classes otherwise than by a remote ancestry and a now common locality; more sparsely found on this side of the Gogra, and with fewer inducements to practice the crime, the Thakoors contribute only 28 villages to the suspected list. In these I recorded 463 boys to 197 girls (61 to 29); while of the 28, I found 11 to be under 25 per cent. and three unable to produce a single girl. Allusion has already been made to this Thakoor family (*vide* paragraph 55); so to those figures nothing further need here be added.

89. From the statistics given above, it is abundantly evident that the Baboos and Koours are far more deeply implicated in the crime than are the Thakoors of the tribe; and this is only natural in the circumstances. With a higher lineage to boast of, the Baboos and Koours are at once more fastidious and more extravagant. The motive power being weaker in the case of the Thakoor families, the repressive measures now inaugurated will have fair ground on which to operate; the poison, circulating but slowly, will be the more easily neutralized and arrested. Very different is the case of the Baboos and Koours who stand almost on a par in evil pre-eminence and blood guiltiness. In 1856, Mr. Moore recorded his opinion that the Koours were the most addicted, of the two, to infanticide; in 1868, Mr. Hobart modified this *dictum*; and reported the Baboos to be, if any thing, the more notorious. Now two elements seem to me essential (at least theoretically) to any such organized infanticide movement: (1) high family and pride of race; (2) poverty, or at least indigent circumstances. Both the Baboos and the Koours possess to a certain extent these elements; for both at once boast an ancient pedigree, and lament an empty purse. But when we remember that these differences are not equalized; that the Baboos are not so much above the Koours in rank as the Koours are below them in wealth, we see the *rationale* of the conclusion (theoretically inevitable, and borne out by statistics).

that of the two the Koours are the more guilty. Descendants of the younger branch; they never enjoyed the same privileges, substantial or ceremonial, as did the Baboos; but they multiplied more rapidly, married as loftily, expended as royally; and—*hinc illae lacrymae*.

90. The following table will show at once the relative positions of the three great families of Soorujbuns Rajpoots:—

Family.	Number of sus-pected Villages.	Number below 25 per cent.	Number without Girls.	Total.		Percentages	
				Boys	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Baboos	...	45	28	10	761	209	78½
Koours	...	54	37	11	984	258	79
Thakoors	...	28	12	3	463	197	61
Total	...	127	77	24	2,208	664	77
							23

91. Leaving Amorha and following the river westwards we reach Ourungabuduugur, the home of the Goutums. The same unhealthy atmosphere of pride, poverty, and extravagance, pervades this pergunnah, though with a more limited area, as it did Amorha. The extraordinary sub-division and separation of interest in land is proved by the existence of hosts of *putteedars*, who fritter away in driblets the produce of their villages, leaving less than enough for each. As they are poor, so are they proud. Thus there are not wanting in their case some of those motive influences which, acting on unenlightened and barbarous natures, tend finally towards infanticide. The Goutums are not to be found in any thing like the same numbers as the Soorujbuns Rajpoots: for (1) they are a much smaller clan in themselves; and (2) they have not been augmented by importations from without as the Soorujbuns Thakoors were by the emigration of the Pooramurna families

from Oudhi. In every way the Goutums are the more limited and exclusive of the two. Of their 47 villages, 27 find a place in the suspected list and contain 595 boys to 149 girls in the proportion of 80 to 20 per hundred. Although this general average is the lowest yet recorded, the Goutums cannot be said to be so deeply implicated as their Amorha neighbours; for the proportion of suspected villages among the Soorujbuns is considerably greater than that of the Goutum clan. Nor have the latter the advantage possessed by the others of a number of villages just on the wrong side of 40 per cent. (contributed by the *Thakoors*), whose high proportions neutralize so far the low averages of the majority. The shade of difference however is inappreciably slight.

92. Of the 27 villages, I find 15 to be under 25 per cent., showing 450 boys to 82 girls; and three of these are daughterless. Their largest village *Pipra* has a minor population of 266; of whom 221 are boys and 45 girls, in the proportion of 83 to 17 per hundred, *Bhelwul* has 35 and 6 : *Melreepore* 65 and 11 : *Naikapar* 25 and 2 : *Neerunjunpore* 11 and 1. Of the 12 tuppas *Pipra*, between the Koano and the Manorama, supplies at once the greatest number and the worst specimens of suspected villages; while *Munwurparah*, in the east of the pergannah, follows at a considerable interval—the remaining tuppas only contributing a few outlying villages. When we consider that *Pipra*, besides being the tappa in which sub-division of property has been carried to its greatest extent, and besides being the neighbourhood of notoriously mutinous villages, is close to the Hawelee Tappa in which the Nugur Rajah dwelt, and contains almost all the purer Goutum villages (for there are two classes) connected with that once proud family, we are at no loss to divine the cause of this pre-eminence. As for *Manwurparah*, its lands bound with those of Amorha; and no doubt the influences at work there have not been without result in the adjoining territory.

93. North of Ourungabdnugur, and forming what may be termed the central pergannah of the district, is *Munsoornugur Bustee*, the region of the Kulhuns *Thakoors*. It

constituted in early times the dominion of the Bustee Rajahs, whose representative still enjoys the title, and much of the territory, of his ancestors. Of *purely* Kulhuns villages I found 13 to be worthy of a place in the suspected list; with a minor population of 435 boys to 190 girls, in the proportion of 70 to 30 per hundred. Only 5 of the 13 are actually under 25 per cent., and only one of these five is daughterless. Less extravagant in their habits, if not lower in rank, the Kulhuns have never been so notorious as the Soorajbans and Goutum Rajpoots. Their suspected villages are fewer, and their percentages are higher, than those of the latter tribes. Atroh and Sheopore, towards the north-east of the pergunnah, are the worst of the tuppas: the one bordering with Amorha, the other being contiguous to Oudh.

94. With the three great clans whose details have now been given, much the greater party of my enquiry was concerned; for although there remain representatives of many other Rajpoot tribes, some of them with very low averages, their villages are mostly few and their population scanty. They have moreover, with the exception of the Sirens, no distinct and definite *locale* in the Bustee District. Of the whole 258 villages, the 91 that remain to be mentioned belong to no less than 27 diverse clans, and to these I will now very briefly allude. Among the 27, the Bais Thakoors have alone been able to effect anything like a general settlement in the district. Next to the Soorajbans, they possess the largest number of Rajpoot villages; and in this view we would have expected them to have played a more prominent part in the enquiry; even though they are not usually supposed to be so much addicted, here or elsewhere, to the practice of infanticide. But (1) their villages are not centralized; they are scattered here and there all over the district, and in each of the pergunnahs; and (2) they are frequently found in villages either very small in themselves or partly owned and inhabited by other castes: so that the mere number of their villages is no criterion of the extent of their population.

95. All the clans found in the suspected list may, so far as the present enquiry is concerned, be classified as under --

- (1) Seernjbuns.
- (2) Gentum and Kullums.
- (3) Bais, Burwar, Chouhan, Hâunra, and Konsik.
- (4) Sirnet, Raokwar, Bisen, Raithonr, Bandhulgotee, Rajkumar, and Gurgbumsoe.
- (5) The remaining 15 clans represented by single villages only,—Gour; Gulnwar; Bughel; Belghantia; Junwar; Rikhbuns; Rughbunsoe; Oobhuree; Oodwutia; Sukurwar; Solunkee; Buchigotee; Seungur; Agust, and Toor.

To this list must be added a *sixth class*—that of *mixed villages*; that is, villages in which, from the complicated intermixture of several distinct tribes, separate details are impracticable, such being therefore given in the aggregate. When the intermixture is slight and unimportant, the village has been added to the list of the prevailing clan. Of course the bulk of the suspected villages are monopolized by the first two classes, which include the most notorious clans, and exhibit the most suspicious percentages. In glancing shortly at those that remain, I shall confine myself to figures.

96. Of purely Bais villages entered in the suspected list, I find only 18 out of their total of 150 in the district: but they share, with other Rajpoets, several of the villages designated *mixed*. The 18 villages are all either small in themselves, or only partially held by Bais Thakoors. They exhibit 162 boys to 60 girls, in the proportion of 75 to 25 per hundred: so that their numbers fall very much below those of the first three clans. Of villages under 25 per cent. they contribute 8, of which 4 are daughterless. It seems strange that out of the large number of villages in which Bais Rajpoets are to be found,* so few find a place in the suspected list; nor is it, at first sight, apparent how these 18 have come to be implicated.

* About 150 in the District.

But the difficulty vanishes when we note that 9 of the 18 are situated in Amorha (three of them without a single girl), and three in Munsoornugur Bustee : both which pergunnahs, more especially the former, are deeply stained with the crime. It is from contact with the guilty clans of their neighbourhood that the Bais in this district have become contaminated. Their six villages, found elsewhere, are comparatively unimportant ; the 12 villages to the south and south-east are the worst examples of the tribe, and really represent that portion of it in which the practice of infanticide exists. The case is very much the same with the Burwars, only that their total villages are fewer, numbering 25 only in the entire district. Ten of these find a place in the suspected list, with a minor population of 171 boys to 77 girls, or 69 per cent. of the former to 31 of the latter. Three of the 10 are under the 25 per cent. limit, and one fails to produce a single girl born since the mutiny of 1857. But 7 of the 10 are found in Amorha, and the remaining three are in Munsoornugur Bustee ; so that we are at no loss to account for the prevalence among them of the practice. Strong is the influence of bad example.

97. The Chouhans, who enjoy no good name elsewhere, are to be found in 20 scattered villages ; but only contribute five of these to the list--containing of boys 116 and of girls but 27, in the proportion of 81 to 19 per hundred. This average is exceptionally low. The villages referred to are all to be found in the notorious pergunnahs. The Chouhans also find a place, along with others, in three of the mixed villages. The Hauras, representatives of a tribe now rarely to be met with in these Provinces, inhabit only four villages in the Bustee District--three on the Oudh border, and one on the Nepaul frontier. Their boys number 49 and their girls 13 ; two of their villages are under 25 per cent., and one can show no daughter. Fifteen years ago not a girl was to be found in these villages ; and even now, the oldest resident cannot remember the celebration of a daughter's marriage. This is hardly to be wondered at, however, since

it is admitted that no such occurrence has been known to take place within the last 250 years. Finally, of the six Kousik villages in the district, three were found by me to be suspicious, with 78 boys to 44 girls, in the proportion of 64 to 36 per hundred.

98. The five clans, whose statistics have thus been briefly recorded, from what I term the *third class*, each being represented by several villages and exhibiting percentages more or less suspicious. With them (omitting the mixed villages) may be said to close the list of those on whom suspicion, apart from actually ascertained statistics, usually rests. The clans represented in classes 4 and 5 are not ordinarily considered to be implicated in the practice; and although I consider it expedient and advisable, in the circumstances, to include their villages in the list, I would hesitate, on so slender a basis, to come to any sweeping or general conclusion. It only remains to give the numbers found in the case of each—and in doing so, it may be well to prefix to them, in tabular form, the statistics already given, so that the actual and relative condition of each may be visible at a glance:—

Clan.	Number of sus-pected Villages	Number of Boys	Number of Girls	Percentages.	
				Boys.	Girls.
(1) Soorjbuns	...	127	2208	664	77· 23·
(2) { Goutum	...	27	595	149	80· 20·
Kulhuns	...	13	435	190	70· 30·
Bais	...	18	162	60	75· 25·
Burwar	...	11	171	77	69· 31·
(3) Chouhan	...	4	116	27	81· 19·
Hanra	...	4	49	13	79· 21·
Kousik	...	3	78	44	64· 36·
Sirnet	...	4	38	25	61· 39·
Raekwar	...	4	55	29	65· 35·
Bisen	...	3	43	29	60· 40·
(4) Rathor	...	3	38	25	61· 39·
Bandhulgotee	...	3	51	23	69· 31·
Rajkomar	...	2	11	4	73· 27·
Gurgbunsee	...	4	18	7	72· 28·
(5) The remaining fifteen clans		15	141	73	66· 34·
(6) Mixed villages		13	165	92	68· 32·
		258	4,374	1,531	74· 26·

99. Before closing this outline of the condition of the suspected pergunnahs and clans, it may be expedient to present, in tabular shape, a statement showing the distribution of guilty Rajpoot villages in a form which will combine the details at once of pergunnah and of race, so that the elements of territory and family may be seen in conjunction. This will enable me to close this part of my report, referring to the state of the district, as I found it in 1871, details of which, in a fragmentary shape, have already been given. The figures below approximate very closely, to the actual truth; and may be relied on as fair exponents of the extent to which pergunnahs and clans, and both combined, are implicated in the practice :—

Clan.	Amorha.		Ourungaband-nugur.		Mansoorngur Bustee.		Ruttunpore Bansree.		Muholee.		Hussunpore Mughar.		Russoolpore Ghous.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
(1) Soorujbuns,	2116	626	48	21	35	9	10	1	39	16	...	...	39	16
(2) { Goutum	...	...	544	137	435	190	8	8	6	3	...	...	27	9
Kulbuns	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bais	92	31	...	...	16	7	12	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
Burwar	109	53	...	...	50	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(3) { Chouhan,	36	5	73	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hanra-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kousik	20	7	58	37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sirnet	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Raekwar	40	17	...	...	2	3	13	9	38	25	...	...	...	...
Bisen	34	21	...	...	3	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(4) { Rathor	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bandhulgotee	51	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rajkomar	4	1	7	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gurgbun- see ...	18	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(5) { The re- maining 15 clans,	26	6	21	15	4	2	19	12	34	35	21	6	4	...
(6) { Mixed vil- lages ...	46	22	...	...	48	27	3	2	...	50	31	14	6	...
	2592	819	746	284	628	280	83	341	4123	77	94	38		

100. Such then is the condition of the guilty and suspected clans in this year (1871.) The figures given, both in aggregate and

Conclusion.

in detail, leave no room for reasonable doubt as to the existence still of the practice of infanticide in many of the villages entered in my list (Annexure III); though comparison with previous statistics encourages us to believe that the crime is on the decrease. Admitting therefore the fact that the evil still exists to a greater or less degree, there remains the question of *cure*. The philosophic method in such a case would be *first* to analyze the causes and motives from which the practice springs; and *then* to devise corresponding remedies: on the ground that just as in the natural world every poison has its antidote, the same holds good in the case of moral evil and its effects. In this view we would try to check the extravagance attendant on the celebration of marriage rites by sumptuary laws: purify the Rajpoot mind of the noxious idea which attributes to such terms as "*sâlâ*" and "*sasur*" (brother-in-law and father-in-law)—meaning other than the natural one, by instilling into it the principles of a loftier morality: rectify the social aberration, engendered by false pride, and crystallized by custom—by civilizing influences and education: abolish the system of unequal marriages by a mutual "*social pact*" between the Thakoor clans,—and thus following to its supposed source each element connected with the crime, gradually and severally, by abolishing the causes, demolish the effects. This system might be theoretically perfect, and would be useful in classifying the causes and the motives at work; but it would hardly be a *practical* system; it would hardly conform to the requirements of the case; nor would it accord with the intention of Government to put down, by prompt and decisive action, the practice of infanticide among these guilty clans.

101. Any necessity that may once have existed for closing a report on infanticide, with suggestions as to the advisability of a certain procedure or the propriety of a certain course, has now been removed by the late legislation on the subject.

An Act of the Supreme Government (VIII. of 1870) has been specially passed for the suppression of this rampant evil wherever it may be found ; and, on its basis, operations have already been commenced here. Under this Act, an admirable set of rules, explanatory and directory, has been prepared by the Local Government ; and a system, of which careful and elaborate registration forms the essence, has already been inaugurated. Every Rajpoot village adjudged *suspicious* (this usually means *with a girl percentage under 40*) will be subjected to the primary stage of registration, that of births and deaths—information being given and enquiry made in every single instance. Such villages, in this district, number 258. But in villages, of which the girl population is *under 25 per cent.*, a more rigorous system will be adopted ; and pregnancy registers, carefully scrutinized and tested, will be kept up for these. If this measure appears at first sight severe, if such interference seems vexations or unwarranted, this is not really the case. Such a procedure is strictly necessary for these notorious villages (123 in number here) ; and without it there would be little ground for expectation in the future. It is to be hoped that under this double system of supervision, before and after birth, the crime will rapidly decrease ; and that when in after years a fresh enquiry is instituted among these villages, the end will be found to have justified the means.

102. Of the causes of the crime, direct or indirect, it is unnecessary to speak. There can be no doubt that the expenses incident to the marriages of daughters is the chief. The Rajpoots are a proud race ; they have an elaborately constructed scale under which each clan finds its appropriate place ; and they are ever eager though not always able to marry their daughters to such as are by reason of descent, rank, wealth, or social position, of a higher status than they are. Thus the Soorujbans Thakoors give their daughters in marriage to the Sirneyt, Bissen, Kulhuns, Kousik, and Hanra ; more seldom to the Bughel and Buehgotee : and their marriage expenses, so far as I could discover, average from Rs. 400 to Rs. 600, sometimes under, often over this mark. I do not

remember hearing a sum mentioned under Rs. 200; and the highest figure was that stated frankly by Kaulban Singh, of Jeoteepore (Amerha), who informed me that his daughter, a girl of 10, had just plighted her troth to a Kulluns of Oudh; that the dowry itself was arranged at Rs. 5,000; and that the other expenses, from the "*tiluk*" to the "*rukhsat*," would amount at the very least to Rs. 5,000 more.* On my asking him how, in the event of other daughters marrying, he could again afford to spend such large sums, he simply answered that "the Gods would find the means," and that as his fathers had done before him, so had he done.

103. The Goutums, marrying their daughters to the Sirnet, Bisen, Seerujbuns, Kulhuns, Keusik, and Bughel, average about the same in regard to expenses, but are, if any thing, even more extravagant than the Soerujbuns Thakeers; while the Kulhunses, who give the daughters of their clan to sons of the Soerujbuns, Sirnet, Bisen, and Goutum, spend very large sums on similar occasions. But sumptuary laws have never (historically) been successful; and *per se* would have little influence in checking the crime to which thirstless extravagance and foolish pride give rise. Until the law steps in to suppress it, infanticide appears to me a fatal but necessary result of the peculiar circumstances of the guilty people. Traditional usage and immemorial custom have imposed upon them certain unreasonable conditions, which, in their folly, they consider essential: these conditions involve very heavy expenses in connection with the marriages of daughters: these expenses they are unable to bear: and hence, preferring to incur the odium of a heartless crime rather than run counter to the customs of the past and the promptings of their own degenerate nature, they evade the difficulty by murdering their infant daughters.

104. The idea that the terms *sâlâ* and *sasur* are disgraceful and dishonouring, very common among the guilty tribes, seems to be the product of a low state of morality, and to spring

* I was subsequently informed that the actual expenses incurred on this occasion amounted to nearly Rs. 20,000: and that heavy debts had in consequence been contracted.

partly from the unworthy position accorded to women in the Indian family. I took occasion, during my investigation, to enquire into the extent of illegitimacy, and the condition of the children born of such a union. Naturally the people were somewhat reserved on this point; nor did I care to press it by demanding details of number and age. But I saw enough to be convinced that among the guilty clans, very few illegitimate children born of a Rajpoot mother were to be found; the reasons being (1) the system of early marriages, the bride going almost immediately to her husband's house; and (2) the actual paucity of marriageable females. I was also led to believe that in such cases these children of dishonour are the first to be sacrificed; but abortion often precludes the necessity for such action. The mothers of the few illegitimate children actually brought forward were mostly such as had early lost their husbands; for the chief danger lies not before marriage but after widowhood. Much more common is the connection of a Rajpoot with a woman of some inferior caste: and in this case the children are not admitted into the father's household. This is, no doubt, carried to a considerable extent; for I was particularly struck with the enormous number of *unmarried men*, young, middle-age, and old, who appeared before me during the census operations. A glance at the individual or nominal census (Form A) now almost completed, will show to what an extreme length this has gone in many of the suspected villages. The younger brothers of a family were rarely found by me to be married men. Knowing as we do the supreme importance attaching to marriage in the social economy of India, this is singularly anomalous, and is deserving of more detailed enquiry than can be accorded in such a slight sketch as the present. Meanwhile, it is, I fancy, one result of the infanticide system: *Rajpoot girls are not to be had*; and although many Thakoors are quite regardless of the caste to which their wives may belong, provided the fact is unknown to others (hence a thriving trade in kidnapping girls of other castes, several cases of which have come before me in my judicial capacity), others are more particular, and prefer a life of celibacy to such

a transgression of social law. This state of things should, according to the received maxims of political economy (the only science applicable where wives are bartered for, and daughters sold) cure itself in time; as yet, however, it has failed to do so, while it has led meanwhile to great immorality.

105. If to the above we add the power of custom and habit among the more guilty, and the force of bad example among the less guilty tribes, we have stated what appear to be the chief influences which lead to this deplorable result. We all know how blind and unmeaning customs are apt to become; how they crystallize and harden imperceptibly; how the *eidolon* of unthinking conformity to the past and its usages is especially powerful in an Indian village. "*Nil consuetudine majus,*" true of all the world, is true to an exceptional degree of India. It is only very slowly that such ideas can be uprooted, and such notions abandoned. This powerful and direct influence of *custom* in the perpetration of crime, apparently a national peculiarity, implies a low mental state, and a degenerate moral sense. Such conditions of mind and heart cannot be altered in a day; any change must necessarily be gradual; but meanwhile we may well turn to a remedy which, with due care and supervision, should be able to effect speedily what such changes would take long to bring about.

106. As to the actual practice of the crime, how, when, and by whom it is perpetrated; whether the means be salt or opium, strangulation or inanition; whether it is done immediately after birth; whether one, or both, or none of the parents are directly cognizant at the time—all such points are involved in considerable doubt. It seems to be the general belief that the father of the child is the instigator of the deed, while the mother is often a passive spectator of the crime. In the only case which has yet come before me judicially (and which I was obliged to dismiss after chemical analysis) both parents were implicated; and of the guilt of both I was morally convinced. Evidence sufficient for conviction, however, is rarely attainable, owing to the extreme privacy with which the family life of every Rajpoot is invested, and the reluctance of

Government to interfere with this in any way. But the time has now come when such kindly consideration, abused by the guilty clans, must cease, and from henceforth the details of every birth and death, and in some cases of every pregnancy also, will find a place in the prosaic rolls of the appointed register.

107. Of course it was not to be expected that the members of the guilty clans would come forward in penitence and confess their misdeeds in public. In vain I questioned them as to the paucity of their girl population ; in vain I asked the fathers of Bhudawar-kullan, and Kursura, where their daughters were ; in vain I pointed to the boys of Gobin, 54 in numbers, and asked for the girls of the village (*not one was to be found.*) To all my questionings, I got no answer save at times a vague declaration that it was the act of the Gods, and the course of fate. All admitted that the crime *once* existed, but denied that it was practised *now* ; and while occasionally willing to cast suspicion on other families, disavowed for themselves any participation whatsoever. Those holding aloof from the crime, thoroughly ashamed of the evil reputation their guilty clansmen have brought upon all, rejoice that prompt action is now to be taken. As one old Chittree, who displayed with pride a large family of daughters,—said, unless Government takes the matter firmly in hand, all will be vain. We have tried the "*saviter in modo*" and found it futile ; we must now have recourse to the "*fortiter in re.*"

108. But while these direct measures are in force, we need not and should not eschew any indirect means which may aid us in the great work. Such however, to be at all useful, must come very much from the people themselves. Plans for the reduction of marriage expenses, panchayats, agreements, *et hoc genus omne*, will only be successful when they originate with and are sustained by the people. As the medium of purely Governmental action, their "*raison d'être*" is gone. There remains, however, in the hands of Government one engine, mightier perhaps than any of its class,—the diffusion of sound education. Before its civilizing influences this remnant of a

barbarous age will surely vanish. And while with one hand we sternly repress the crime, let us with the other supply the means (*and insist on their universal adoption*) of acquiring that enlightenment before which the crime must speedily disappear. When this has been effected ; when the people see for themselves the iniquity of the practice ; when such guilty families as may still remain under the ban of suspicion have been ostracised by the general voice of their clansmen and castemen—*then*, and not till then, will the social sanction supersede the necessity for the legal ; and the voice of public opinion condemn what the law has so long failed to punish and suppress.

23. From C. A. ELLIOTT, Esq., Officiating Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, to W. A. FORBES, Esq., C.B., Officiating Commissioner Benares, 23rd August, 1871.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 192, dated 12th July, with enclosures, being a report by Mr. R. Smeaton, Assistant Magistrate of Bustee, on the result of the census taken of clans guilty or suspected of practising female infanticide in the Bustee District, and in reply to communicate the following remarks and orders.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor has read Mr. Smeaton's report with the utmost interest. It is somewhat too long, and too diffuse and ambitious in its style for an official report. But these defects, pardonable in so young an officer, are more than counterbalanced by the sterling merits of the paper. Mr. Smeaton's local inquiries were laborious and exhaustive ; the results have been analysed and classified, both territorially and by clans, in a full and lucid manner ; and the proposals founded on the numerical conclusions are well considered and appropriate. Mr. Smeaton's labours entitle him to the cordial thanks of Government, and give the promise of eminence and usefulness in his future career.

3. The Rajpoots of seven pargunnahs have been proclaimed, and a general census was ordered in the Circular of 17th, November 1870 ; 400 villages have been enumerated by Mr. Smeaton in person, and his operations were spread over

three months. It is satisfactory to learn from his 10th paragraph that no difficulty was opposed by the parents to his seeing the girls, of whatever age they were.

4. One hundred and eighteen villages were declared suspected by Mr. Moore in 1856, and 216 by Mr. Hobart in 1868. The great offenders were the Soorujbuns, Goutum, Hara, and Kulhuns clans; and in a lesser degree the Chowhan, Burwar, Bais, Kousik, Bisen, Sirnet, Raikwar, Rajkomar, Guhurwar, Pulwar, Sombunsee, and other clans.

5. Mr. Smcaton first compares the results of 1856 with

Pergunnah.	1856.			1871.			No. of villages.
	Boys under 6.	Girls under 6.	Percentage of girls.	Boys under 6.	Girls under 6.	Percentage of girls.	
Amorha, ..	840	158	16	666	295	31	78
Arungabad Nugur	284	92	24	318	126	29	16
Munsoor Nugur Bustee, ...	170	41	19	157	67	30	20
Ruttunpore Bansie,	10	1	...	52	9	26	4
Total ...	1,304	292	18	1,166	497	30	118

(By clans, taking only the more guilty.)

Soorujbuns, ..	742	136	16	641	275	30	67
Goutums, ..	200	44	18	201	50	20	10
Kulhuns, ..	101	27	21	125	48	28	13
Chouhans, ..	35	10	15	47	23	32	5
Bais, ..	18	6	25	30	13	30	8
Burwars, ..	55	17	23	55	35	38	9
Haras ..	10	...	...	25	9	26	4

those of 1871 in the 118 villages, both by pergunnahs and clans. Mr. Moore's investigations gave 1,304 boys to 292 girls under six, the latter being only 18 per cent. of the entire number: in 1871 there were 1,166 boys to 497 girls, and the latter had risen to nearly 30 per cent. The im-

11. His Honor also approves of the proportioning of the taxation to the comparative virulence of the criminality.
12. The nominal registration should be carried out at once in the proclaimed clans.

13. In para. 73. Mr. Smeaton deprecates the application of the 25 standard rule. But I am to explain that it was not meant that the law should not be enforced in villages with a smaller minor population than 25. The Circular of 17th November, 1870, No. 1455A., was clear as to the meaning of this standard, and the intention of Government was never otherwise than as explained by Mr. Smeaton.

14. In conclusion, I am to say that a comparison of three enumerations made within the last 15 years shows that in each succeeding period, even under a system which brought only general exhortation to bear on the people, steady progress has been made in saving female life. This affords a hopeful prospect that under the active treatment now to be enforced, the inhuman custom of infanticide will soon entirely cease. The Lieutenant-Governor has every confidence that this result will shortly be achieved under the careful and zealous supervision of Mr. Percy Wigram.

15. Mr. Smeaton's report, together with these orders, will be printed in the Selections from the Records of Government.

ZILLA BUSTEE.

Clans to which the Rules of Repression are to be applied.

Clan.	No. of Villages.	No. of Families.	Adults.		Minors.		Total.	Percentage of Girls.
			Males.	Females.	Boys.	Girls.		
Soorijhunsees,	...	130	1,020	3,677	3,012	2,234	672	2,906
Gontums,	...	26	400	814	703	695	148	743
Baises,	...	28	139	379	334	255	110	365
Kullhunes,	...	14	204	662	543	444	190	634
Burwars,	...	9	71	215	149	121	58	170
Chouhans,	...	4	54	143	166	116	27	143
Railkvars,	...	1	15	43	32	30	12	42
Rajkomars,	...	2	5	18	11	11	4	15
Hars,	...	5	26	58	66	49	13	62
Eelghutlas,	...	1	8	62	23	19	7	26
Kousiks,	...	1	49	88	88	58	38	96
Rughibuneses,	...	1	5	13	11	11	4	16
Sirnts,	...	5	29	97	92	68	45	113
Bughels,	...	1	4	18	19	16	13	29
Burwars,	...	1	20	88	55	39	17	56
Junwars,	...	2	7	15	10	8	2	10
Tonwars,	...	1	1	7	8	8	2	10
Sengurs,	...	1	3	12	12	14	4	18
Kandhl Gotees,	...	3	27	44	47	61	23	74
Gurgbuneses,	...	4	9	28	25	14	3	17
Total,	...	240	2,096	6,345	5,396	4,161	1,392	5,553
								25

23. I have heard the suggestion made that the presence of so many unmarried men in houses is a fruitful source of immorality and impurity in families. There is reason to fear that this is the case.

24. Even in tribes and villages where every female infant is most carefully nursed and reared, a certain discrepancy in the number of male and female children is likely to occur, because the age of boys is commonly at marriage greater than that of girls. A girl married at 10 or 11 is commonly entered as an adult in the village of her husband, while a boy of the same age appears a child.

25. Full allowance for this and other causes of discrepancy is, however, made in the Government rule which places amongst the innocent tribes those in which more than 40 per cent. of children are girls.

I would here notice that a fallacious conclusion is often likely to occur from the method of calculating and stating percentages. As the percentage of girls to the whole number of children should be 50, it is natural to assume that, when it is only 40, 30, or 25 per cent., it is 10, 20, or 25 per cent, short of what it ought to be, whereas the actual deficiency is in the first case 33 per cent., in the second case 57, and in the third case 66 per cent.

26. I have never in a single case been able to obtain an admission of the existence of infanticide. People are willing to admit that it once was practised, but stoutly maintain that it is now entirely unknown.

27. I am inclined to think that in some cases the discrepancy between the numbers of girls and boys may be attributable to the superior care taken of boys and the

Abstinence from marriage, source of immorality in families.

Discrepancy between girls and boys likely to occur even when girls are carefully nursed.

A fallacious conclusion likely to occur in estimating deficiency of girls to boys.

The existence of infanticide is never admitted.

Minor degrees of discrepancy of boys and girls may be accounted for by superior care of boys.

neglect of girls, but still, in the case of some whole tribes and of many villages of other tribes, the disrepancy is so enormous that it is impossible to doubt the existence of the crime. For the Bais village of Mungaree, Pergunnah Buhuriabad, there are 59 boys and only 5 girls.

28. During the administration of the independent Rajahis

Poverty of Rajpoots of Benares, and for some time after from sale of their estates. the annexation of the province, the village zemindars were excluded from the management of their villages, and collections were made by the amils from them for the land in their actual cultivation, and directly from the non-proprietary cultivators. At the permanent settlement they were restored to the management of their estates; a few men were chosen from the whole proprietary body, and made responsible for the revenue of the village, but the areas and boundaries of villages were not fixed, the extent of ownership of shareholders was neither recorded nor ascertained, and the persons responsible for the revenue were invested with no adequate powers for realising rent from tenants or their quota of revenue from co-sharers. Boundary disputes between village and village, and internal quarrels, the inevitable results of this system, necessarily caused balances. The difficulties and quarrels of the Rajpoot zemindars were fomented by our Native revenue officials. Where balances occurred, no attempt to realise them by the minor processes of duress was ever made; auction sale was the single proceeding invariably adopted, and the estates of the Rajpoots were bought in by the same Native revenue officials who had done all in their power to hinder the liquidation of the revenue.

When, in 1817 A.D., a commission was issued for the North-West Provinces to investigate into and annul the iniquitous sales of the estates for balances, the Benares province was alone excluded from its beneficent operations, and in it alone are the Rajpoot zemindars to the full extent the impeverished tenants of the *neelamdar*s liable under Act X. of 1859 to enhancement of rent without limit.

The Goutums "own the greater part of the Pergunnah
Page 59. Kurounda, a rich and fertile tract.

Page 58, G. H. S. M. The Guhurwars of Mahaitch have re-
Page 63, G. H. S. M. tained about half of the one hundred

and eighty villages formerly owned by them." With regard to the Kousiks, the following passage occurs :—" Their entire estates were sold for Government revenue, and purchased by the Paurees of Boyrealh. After this they became notorious for insubordination and the perpetration of violent crimes. They murdered the agent of the auction-purchaser (18) on the 15th November, 1840 A.D., and a largo number of them (37) were for this crime sentenced to imprisonment for life, and sent to the Alipore Jail, where, it may be, after nearly thirty years, some of them are still prisoners. During the disturbances of 1857-58 they gave much trouble. After the mutinies were over, arrangements were made by the district authorities with the Paurees of Boyrealh, who are also, as before mentioned, in possession of the property of the Nikoomb Rajpoots of Reotee, for the restoration of the talooka to the original owners, on payment of Rs. 60,000. This transfer has been attended with the happiest results. The Kousiks are now amongst the most loyal and peaceable citizens in the district."

34. I prefer quoting the actual words of the Ghazepore Memoir as much as possible, because they were in print long before the infanticide census was taken, and consequently are removed from all suspicion of being made stronger than was accurate in support of a theory.

Comparison of different villages of the same tribes appears to yield similar results. Amongst the Sengurs of Luknessur in the villages of Nagpoora and Theekadeoree, on the banks of the Surjoo, where land is good and there is plenty of it, percentage of girls to children is 46 and 47.

In the villages of Athelalh and Russerah, where the Rajpoot population is as large, but the land little, and of inferior quality, the percentage is 32.

Similarly, amongst the Kurchoolias of Kopacheet, in the largo and wealthy village of Rutsur the percentage of girls to children is as high as 43. In the poorer villages of the pergunnah which have been sold by auction, or in which the population has outgrown land, it makes as low as 14 and 20 per cent.

35. The samo difference may bo observed between tho poor and the wealthy families of the same clan in the samo village. In the Kurchoolia village of Hejowlee, Pergunnah Kopacheet, there are only 49 girls and 158 boys; but in the house of a single wealthy zemindar, Baboo Hurchurn Singh, six young girls are now present. In the Kurchoolia village of Chilkahur, in Kopacheet, there are only 43 girls to 84 boys; but the chief zemindar, Baboo Ramanoogruh Singh, has had three daughters married. There are four young girls present in the house of Mahesh Singh, who is, I believe, in easy circumstances.

36. Tho second general fact whieh has evolved itself from tho census statement is that in guilty tribes infanticide is more prevalent in the parent pergunnah where is situated the chief colony of the tribe. The following tabular statement will, I think, provo the correctness of this assertion.

Name of Tribe.	Parent Preference.		Percentage for the Parent Prefer- ential of Girls to Children.	Percentage of girls to children in the rest of Gujarat.
	Percentage for the Parent Prefer- ential of Boys to Children.	Percentage for the Parent Prefer- ential of Girls to Children.		
Nikoomb	Khared	43	32	41
Buryan	Zabordi	32	41	42
Birnar	Khared	51	42	42
Narowee	Ronewi	47	32	32
Scorufhuns	Zabardasi	47	32	32
Biven	Sachpore	22	32	32
Chowhan	Kapre	33	32	32
Rushobunee	Kapre	33	32	32
Dhbit	Kapre	33	32	32
Eaken	Kapre	33	32	32
Lathoar	Kapre	33	32	32
Sikurwar	Kapre	33	32	32
Korcholis	Kapre	33	32	32
Ponwar	Kapre	33	32	32
Seberia	Kapre	33	32	32
Chowbaria	Kapre	33	32	32
Lauteria	Kapre	33	32	32
Geegar	Kapre	33	32	32
Hals	Kapre	33	32	32
Lesaria	Kapre	33	32	32
Desawar	Kapre	33	32	32
Hortaburka	Kapre	33	32	32
Kinwar	Kapre	33	32	32
Halkvar	Kapre	33	32	32

37. In the above list I have only entered the tribes who have large colonies in some one or two pergunnahs, and not those found only in small colonies or distributed tolerably equally in several pergunnahs.

38. In twenty cases the percentage of girls to children is

The Narownees out of Khureed and the Kutchhoobis out of Kopachet are not numerous enough materially to affect general tribal average.

less in the parent pergunnah than the average for the tribe; and in only two cases—viz., those of the Luknessur Sengurs and the Soorujbuns of Zahoorabad—is it greater. Now the Sengurs

have altogether escaped the great curse of the district—auction sales for revenue; and with regard to the Soorujbuns of Pergunnah Zahoorabad, I particularly noticed in the Ghazeeapore Memoir that “they are a flourishing tribe, and have retained most of their estates.”

39. On the whole, it appears probable that the second general fact deduced from the census statements may be further analysed into the first, and that the Rajpoots remaining in the head-quarters of the clan have had less elbow-room, and have suffered more from the gradual increase of population in localities where land was scarce.

40. The third general fact evolved from the census is that in the pergunnah of Khureed, more than in any other part of the district, infanticide is practised.

The following tabular statement shows the results of the census for all clans of Rajpoots in Pergunnah Khureed.

No. of clan.	Clan.	Pargannah.	Number of adults,		Number of children under 12.		Proportion of girls to children.		Remarks.
			Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Total.		
1	Kheechur	Khureed	1	1	1	1	1	1	...
2	Birwar	Ditto	1	2	1	1	1	1	...
3	Baghel	Ditto	1	3	5	9	17	9	...
4	Suruniya	Ditto	1	1	74	76	56	73	23
5	Chukwain	Ditto	1	1	46	33	17	22	22
6	Karonwar	Ditto	7	8	58	50	29	5	14
7	Monus	Ditto	6	6	45	37	18	6	25
8	Nikcomb	Ditto	26	26	702	736	309	91	403
9	Burgyan	Ditto	5	13	11	12	6	18	33
10	Kustrar	Ditto	1	1	12	13	9	2	11
11	Lahoot	Ditto	4	4	111	99	59	23	81
12	Khatee	Ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1	...
13	Goomha	Ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1	...
14	Barkaiya	Ditto	11	11	53	59	32	21	39
15	Birwar	Ditto	39	39	912	1,014	509	220	729
16	Chundel	Ditto	22	22	111	29	35	16	71
17	Narowence	Ditto	50	50	1,494	1,671	786	414	1,203
18	Soorujhunsee	Ditto	8	8	35	39	20	5	25
19	Tonnwur	Ditto	4	4	70	50	19	13	37
20	Bisen	Ditto	31	31	255	274	122	53	175
21	Chowhan	Ditto	13	13	66	53	35	8	43
22	Rughoobunsi	Ditto	4	4	6	5	1	1	...
23	Dikit	Ditto	17	17	175	169	93	53	146
24	Kakon	Ditto	15	15	8	83	29	31	93
25	Gulhot	Ditto	10	10	27	31	17	9	26
26	Kurcholia	Ditto	11	11	23	23	17	4	17

41. The example of the poor and proud Nikoombs, Birwar, and Narownee, has infected, it would appear, all their neighbours, and introduced the practice of infanticide among tribes who in other pergunnahs are innocent of the crime.

42. The auction-purchasers of the district, who are, with hardly an exception, representatives of the men who were amils, tehseldars, shershadars, and moonsiffs at the commencement of the century, year by year pursue the same relentless policy, which has in view ultimately the entire extirpation of the Rajpoot ex-proprietors, and the substitution for them of low-caste cultivators paying rack-rents. So long as the whole machinery of the law of Government is employed in crushing the Rajpoot race, it is, I think, hardly to be hoped that repressive measures can effectually extirpate infanticide.

43. In India, under Native government, whoever from time to time may be recognised as the owner of the village, entitled to pay the Government revenue and to receive the rents of the non-proprietary cultivators, the old proprietary body, the descendants of the men who first colonised the country and cut down the junglo, have always been allowed to remain in the possession of their own seer land at a moderate rent.

A law passed in accordance with this principle, securing to ex-zemindars the perpetual occupancy of their seer land at a moderate rent, would, I think, do more for the suppression of infanticide than any direct measure of repression, and would, furthermore, change into loyal subjects tens of thousands of brave men now disloyal, discontented, and seeing no way for escape from ultimate extirpation save the downfall of our Government. It is a circumstance worthy of special notice that at the time of the permanent settlement the right at any subsequent time to pass a law for the protection of any class of tenants was expressly reserved by the Governor-General in Council by Regulation XXVII. of 1795.

44. The difficulty presented by the increase of Rajpoot population in localities where the land is not sufficient to sup-

port them, is one of a more irremediable nature than the difficulty arising from the sale of estates.

The only ultimate hope seems to be extension of education, and the breaking down of those caste prejudices which limit the field in which a Rajpoot can employ his energies and exclude him from those occupations in which he might earn his bread.

45. In conclusion, I would recommend the proclamation, under the infanticide rules, of (1) all Rajpoots in Pergunnah Khureel, (2) all Rajpoots of admitted tribes, of which the tribal percentage of girls to children does not exceed 40 per cent.

46. I would also venture to recommend that in cases where the percentage of any tribe in a pargannah exceeds 42 per cent., that the tribe should in that pargannah be excluded from the operation of the rules for repression of infanticide.

I have more particularly in view the case of the Bais tribe, which, though guilty in eight pargannahs, has a girl percentage of from 66 to 44 per cent. in the Pargannahs of Ghazeporo, Bulliah, Doabah, Luknessur, and Dohnia.

47. The power of excluding families and every village from the operation of the infanticide suppression rules might, I think, be entrusted to the Magistrate; and it is likely that by limiting the field of operations the work might be more effectually done.

48. There are now in the Ghazepore District only 329 imperial police—including mounted and foot constables, head constables, sub-inspectors, inspectors—available for the general police administration, after deducting the treasury and jail guard and the reserve. The population of the district exceeds one million three hundred thousand. It is obvious that it is not desirable to impose additional duties on a force utterly inadequate to perform the duties now devolving on them. The original allocation of police to the Ghazepore District

in 1864 was framed on the basis of a tabular statement in which, by a gigantic clerical error, the population of the district, as ascertained by the census of 1855 A.D., was understated by more than five hundred thousand.

If an imperial police force were located in the district in any degree proportionate to the amount of work to be done, and to the wealth, size, and population of the district, I should not wish to propose the appointment of extra police, because a crime, the prevalence of which is largely due to poverty, is not likely to be diminished by taxation. As things now stand, and until provincial re-allocation of the police force is made, the enforcement of rules for the repression of infanticide cannot be successfully carried out without an augmentation of the police force of the district ; and I should propose the entertainment of 20 head constables on Rs. 10 each to keep the registers at stations, and of one inspector on Rs. 70 a month to supervise the whole arrangements for the entire district.

25. From the Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, to the Commissioner of the Benares Division, No. 16.—Dated Allahabad, the 20th June, 1872.

HAVING laid before His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor Mr. Oldham's report on female infanticide, and statements showing the proportion of boys and girls among the Rajpoots of the Ghazepore District, as brought out by the census of January last, received under cover of your letters Nos. 82 and 92, dated 20th and 27th April, 1872, respectively, I am directed to communicate the following remarks and orders thereon.

2. The report was forwarded to your office on 9th March, and after great delay, which is much to be regretted in a matter so important as the protection of infant life, has been submitted by you without any review.

3. The subject has been very fully and ably treated by Mr. Oldham, and I am to request that you will convey to that

officer the cordial thanks of Government for the care with which he has collected the statistics and endeavoured to trace out the guilty classes, and the reasons which induce them to practise the crime. The report is a valuable addition to the infanticide records of this Government, and will be published in the Selections of Government and in the Gazette.

4. The Bais clan is the only one which has been proclaimed under Act VIII. of 1870 as yet in Ghazeepore. The statistics now submitted show a strange mixture of guiltiness and innocence as regards this clan, and prove that there are many other clans more guilty.

5. The total Rajpoot population by the last census compared with that of 1865 is shown marginally. The difference By Census of 1865, 206,262 is due to the exclusion, in 1872, of the Ditto of 1872, 145,802 Bhooinhars, who were counted as Rajpoots in the enumeration of 1865, but who are a tribe of Brahmins. Rajpoot boys are 26,494, against 16,615 girls, which gives for the district a percentage of girls to children of 38—a terrible deficiency which indicates the existence of wide-spread guilt.

6. In order to discover the classes and localities in which the crime prevails, Mr. Oldham, in obedience to the orders of Government, has treated each Rajpoot tribe separately, and has given the statistics of every clan for every pergannah throughout the district. He has further divided Rajpoots into two classes : (a) Admitted, (b) Doubtful,—and his proposal is to apply the law (1) to all (a) admitted Rajpoot tribes which have a district tribal percentage of girls not exceeding 40, all pergannahs being exempted in which the tribal average exceeds 42 ; (2) to proclaim all Rajpoots in Pergannah Khureed ; (3) to defer action in respect of the (b) doubtful clans, pending further enquiry as to their origin and history. There are 63 admitted and 12 doubtful Rajpoot clans, with 40 per cent. of girls or under, while 40 admitted and 16 doubtful clans have no children at all, or more

than 40 per cent. of girls,—the percentage in both cases being calculated on the total figures for the district.

7. These proposals are not quite in accord with the views of Government, and may be modified as follows :—Firstly, His Honor would exclude from the category of guilty (unless there be any special or additional presumption of guilt) all those tribes which have less than 25 children in the district,—a smaller number not being sufficient to form the basis of a safe induction. This disposes of 16 out of the 63 admitted guilty clans. Secondly, he would exempt all pergunnahs where the children are less than 25, even though the percentage of girls is below 40, unless the tribe in question is evidently very guilty elsewhere. Thirdly, he would make no distinction between doubtful and admitted Rajpoot tribes. The proportion of girls, not the denomination or purity of the clans, is the main point to be regarded. Fourthly, he would not treat Pergunnah Khureed differently from other pergunnahs. As a matter of fact, Pergunnah Bulliah, and perhaps Doabah, appear to contain as much, or nearly as much, guilt as Khureed. Fifthly, where tribes have in the entire district a proportion of girls rising above 40 per cent., but in certain pergunnahs with more than 25 children have less than 40 per cent., the Lieutenant-Governor would not assume those tribes to be innocent in those pergunnahs.

8. Applying these principles, we should have under surveillance the 56 clans enumerated in

* Not printed. Appendix A.* of this letter, and in the

localities specified ; and the sanction of the Supreme Government will this day be solicited to their proclamation under the Act. Full statistics regarding each of these clans have been brought together for facility of reference, and for record

* Not printed. in a second statement, Appendix B.,* a copy of which is also enclosed for your information.

9. In anticipation of sanction, I am to request that the Magistrate will at once draw up a statement showing the

villages which will come under the ban. The arrangement should be by police circles, in order that it may be determined how many proclaimed villages will fall to each police station, and what extra help is required so as to secure that the surveillance is sure and effective. The cost of additional police and any other necessary expenses must of course be borne by the guilty families, and the Magistrate should estimate what the cost will be. Mr. Oldham's remarks regarding the insufficiency of the present force of police to cope with the ordinary criminal work of the district will be forwarded for the consideration of the Inspector-General. The remarks would have carried more weight if supported by a statement of the average number of cases requiring police investigation that occur within the limits of each station.

10. An extract of the report relating to the expediency of protecting the ex-proprietary tenants will be sent for consideration to the Board of Revenue, and for any suggestions which may seem called for. But His Honor fears that the day for completely remedying the evil done has long since passed away.

11. The general conclusions arrived at by Mr. Oldham and discussed in paragraphs 30 to 41 of his report, deserve careful attention. They are (1) that infanticide prevails most in those tribes where pride of race is combined with poverty, (2) that a tribe is most guilty where it is most numerous and powerful, and (3) that a guilty tribe often contaminates by its example the tribes that live intermixed with it. These conclusions are based on fair presumptions and are reasonable in themselves, and have also been met with in the reports of certain other districts; but it is remarkable that while in some parts the inability to maintain a daughter leads to infanticide, in other parts wealth, stimulating vanity and aspiration to higher rank, induces a similar result.

26. *General Review of Infanticide in the North-Western Provinces, by MAJOR T. DENNEHY, Officiating Deputy Inspector-General of Police, dated Allahabad, the 17th July, 1873.*

In these provinces 4,959 villages are proclaimed under the Infanticide Act. Of these, 1,010 are registered in Form B., and have to report pregnancies.

These numbers will, of course, be considerably modified for the next half-year, when the orders issued on returns compiled on the standard modified by Circular Order of Government No. 5A. of 22nd February, 1873, are carried out.

2. Before proceeding to discuss the general statistics, I may as well explain the standard which I have adopted for comparison in districts. The rate per annum per mille of population which I have taken for all births is 36; the rate of all deaths under one year per annum to mille of population which I have adopted as most applicable to India is 6; the proportion of girls to total population one-sixth. With reference to this point, I quote what I have stated in the review of the Azimgurh District:—

“ It is admitted that in every 100 persons there should be about 35 minors and 65 adults, 30 of whom would be women. Now the births of boys and of girls should normally be almost equal, with perhaps a slight advantage in numbers, to the boys.

“ The deaths should be quite equal. There is in this country no reason, except the dangers attending child-birth (which would not affect minors), why the chances of female should not be as good as those of male life. From these premises we may deduce for the 35 minors in 100 persons a proportion of between 16 and 17 girls to between 18 or 19 boys;—this number of girls would be very nearly one-sixth of a hundred. In saying that the girl population of a district is so many short of what I thus hold *should* be the normal proportion to total population, I do not mean to predicate that the number of girls will or should in a few years become

equal to that of boys ; the births of boys and of girls are nearly equal, and it will be difficult to supply the places of the many girls murdered, and to make good the deficit thus caused. The proportions may be asymptotical and may never meet, but they will doubtless slowly converge towards what the statistical rate, with reference to population, should be."

3. The total initial population when proclaimed in these provinces was 485,938. It has increased to 490,332. 7,213 births were in excess of deaths, from which we must deduct 2,819 removals in excess of arrivals, leaving us a net increase of 4,394.

4. Boys numbered initially 96,358. They have increased to 101,093. Births of boys exceeded deaths by 7,872 ; from this we must deduct 1,594 removals of boys in excess of arrivals, and 1,543 boys transferred to the male adult column, which leaves us with a net increase of 4,735 boys.

5. Girls numbered initially 47,912, they have increased to 54,712. Births of girls exceeded deaths by 8,329, from which we must deduct 1,076 girl removals in excess of arrivals, and 453 girls transferred to the adult female column ; this leaves us with a net increase of 6,800 girls.

6. The initial percentage of boys to total child population was 66·7. That of girls to total child population was 33·3.

The percentage now arrived at of boys to total number of population is 64·8. That of girls to total number of population is 35·2.

7. The above statistics appear to call for remarks on the following points :—

It is noticeable that nearly the whole of the excess of removals over arrivals for the total population is due to removals of minors to other villages, and over six-tenths of these removals were boys ; the majority of the removals are consequently independent of any action of, or dissatisfaction at, the infanticide rules, and of any attempt to evade them.

8. The number of boys transferred to the adult column is more than three times that of girls so transferred. This it is difficult satisfactorily to explain ; but it has been suggested by some District Superintendents that at the time of taking the special census, on which most of these initial returns were based, less care was taken in ascertaining the age of boys than that of girls, who were supposed to be the main objects of solicitude, and many youths considerably in excess of the proper age were entered as minors. This explanation I am inclined to endorse.

9. It is satisfactory to have it in our power to record the improvement of the relative percentage of girls to child population.

This is certainly a step in advance, but we are still in the proclaimed villages in the province considerably short of what I consider the normal proportion of girls to total population should be—that is to say, one-sixth. We have only 54,712 girls, while one-sixth of the population is 81,722, or 27,010 more. Boys are of course considerably in excess of their proper proportion.

10. The average duration of period A. in all districts is one year. Period B. is of six months in all districts. Taking both periods together, 12,218 boys to 12,584 girls were reported as born—that is to say, that 366 more girls than boys are supposed to have been born, at a birth-rate per annum per mille of population of 34, and a percentage of 97 boys to 100 girls.

An excess of 680 girl births over boys occurred in period A., whereas an excess of 314 boy births over girls occurred in period B.

The first was almost certainly due to an imperfect and careless report of boy births : the excess of boys reported in B. is partly normal and partly due to a number of births of boys which really had occurred in A., but were not discovered by police officers until period B., and were then entered as

belonging to that period ; that all were not so discovered and recorded is evident by the otherwise unaccountable excess of births of girls in the total of births of both periods.

This is further proved by the low rate per annum of all births to each thousand of population for period A., which is 30·7, whereas the same rate for B. is, per annum, 40·6, which is abnormally high.

That such has indeed been the case will be clearly inferred from the statistics shown in my reviews in nearly every district.

11. The death-rate under one year of girls compared to boys was, for the same reasons, abnormally high in period A.

The deaths of all, or nearly all, girls were reported, but large omissions occurred in reporting deaths of boys;—1,674 girls and 1,384 boys are recorded as having died.

In B., 953 girls under one year to 956 boys of the same age were reported as having died. It is probable that some of these boys' deaths may, as in the former instance, be really debitable to period A.; but if we may judge from the district reports, the death-rate among infant girls was also really higher than among infant boys.

Altogether 89 boys under one year died to every 100 girls. The rate per annum per mille of population of all deaths under one year was 6·9, which is not much above what it should be.

For the different periods the death-rate of all infants under one year was per mille per annum for A. 6·3, and for B. 7·8, the latter is very high, and, in the absence of any general epidemic, shows that some deaths not properly belonging to this period have been recorded in it.

12. In period B., 291 chowkeedars, 6 midwives, and 218 heads of families and lumberdars were punished.

The number of punishments vary considerably in the different districts, but, as a rule, they are larger where the energy and zeal have been greatest. The number on the whole is fair, and averages one punishment to ten villages.

13. The small number of midwives punished argue that they have not shown any disinclination to assist the police ; indeed, they are generally favourably reported on.

14. The 709 inquests, the 317 *post-mortem* examinations, and 22 suspicious cases have been noticed separately in the districts in which they occurred. Each case has of course to be judged on its merits, but I think that, as a rule, when an infant is reported to have died from congestion of the lungs, inquiry should be made by the police as to how the disease arose : it is believed often to proceed from wilful exposure of the infant ; the cause should in each instance be carefully ascertained. I do not believe that this is done as a rule, or that in fact, unless the Surgeon distinctly reports specific grounds of suspicion, special inquiry is made.

In the six months more immediately under notice only two cases of child-murder were convicted,—one at Cawnpore and one at Azimgurh.

15. The working has everywhere improved in a marked manner in period B., and many Superintendents have distinguished themselves by the zeal and intelligence which they have brought to bear on this important subject.

16. Superintendents generally report that although none of the clans and villages proclaimed are pleased at being placed under the rules, they understand the motives of the action brought to bear on them, and while trying for the most part in every way to evade and defeat the constant inquiries and scrutiny to which they are exposed, they are not disaffected or even seriously discontented ; they are fully aware that it is entirely in their own power, by proving disconnection with the crime of infanticide, to exempt themselves from the pressure now imposed on them.

17. The transfers of minors to the adult columns have in many districts not been attended to. In no districts were any such transfers reported until this period B. ; in several districts these transfers have not even yet been made. I have

now called the special attention of District Superintendents to this point, which requires careful and personal scrutiny on their part to ensure correctness. Regarding the mode of showing these transfers in the returns, I would here quote what I have said in the review of the Azimgurh District:—

“ Mr. Alone has shown the minors removed from the minor to the adult column, first in the columns of removals of minors, and then in the arrival columns of adults. This procedure is perhaps unnecessarily elaborate, and it has, besides, the disadvantage of slightly distorting facts. The arrival and removal columns are meant, I should think, to show the actual fluctuations of persons going from or coming to the village ; they are useful as indications of unusual and perhaps unauthorized pressure put by the police upon a given village ; they are an important adjunct to surveillance to be exercised over absences of pregnant women, and I think that it would be better to allow them to tell a true instead of a supposititious tale.

“ It would be sufficient for the purposes of check if the minors to be transferred to the adult columns were transferred direct to those columns, and the fact, with the numbers of boys and girls so transferred, indicated by a foot-note. I have not given any instructions on the subject to District Superintendents, but I here record my opinion and solicit orders.”

18. With reference to the employment of extra police in certain districts under the rules, I append a statement showing the number now entertained.

I have refrained from discussing the question in the district reviews, as the whole matter will have to be brought up *de novo* after the publication of the statistics of the general census and the adoption of the new standard of guilt fixed in Government Circular Order No. 5A., of the 22nd February, 1873.

19. In several districts, Magistrates and Superintendents have expressed a strong feeling that the Government rules should be slightly amended in the following instances:—

1st.—That station officers should be directed, on the occasion of the birth or death of a *male* child in a proclaimed clan, to see the child in the same way as they now do for *female* children, and assure themselves of its sex.

The object of this recommendation is, that it is believed that heads of families sometimes report the birth of a boy when a girl really has been born, the object being that, on subsequently reporting the death of the boy whose birth was reported the day before, no suspicion of foul play may arise. This I am inclined to endorse. I have little doubt that an artifice of this kind can be, and perhaps is, practised without much difficulty. It probably occurs as yet but rarely, but if successfully practised now by a few, it will be generally taken up before long: of course, if generally practised the statistics would show it at once, but in the meantime lives would be sacrificed, and prevention is better than cure. It would entail some extra work on the police and in some few districts perhaps a slight increase of establishment, but the number of villages will be, under the new standard of 35 per cent., so much reduced that but little (if any) increase will be required.

2nd.—That the chowkeedar should be obliged to report *immediately* the births of boys as he does of girls, instead of as is done now, waiting until he goes in his proper turn to the station on the fixed reporting days. It is a corollary of the first proposition which I would also endorse.

3rd.—That heads of families should be bound to report all arrivals and removals, as well as deaths, births, and marriages.

This, I think, is unnecessary, and would entail a great deal of trouble, so much so as to make the rules (which are now naturally unpopular) positively hateful to the proclaimed people.

20. I must conclude by soliciting the indulgence of Government for the late period at which I submit this report.

I have had to return over and over again reports and statisties for further report and correction.

The returns of Humeerpore, which were sent back for correetion and reply to some references made to the District Superintendent, were only received by me yesterday.

I trust that the detailed instructions given by Colonel Tyrwhitt on the occasion of the last half-year's report, and now again renewed, will prevent recurrence of this delay.

21. I append in original a letter from the Officiating Magistrate of Bustee, reviewing the returns of his district, and giving cover to a letter, with appendices, from Mr. Muir, Assistant Magistrate, who was charged with the duty of testing the returns in the worst pergunnah. These letters have only arrived to-day. Copies of the District Superintendent's report and of the police returns were sent to me direct a few days ago to save time. The district returns of Bustee have been corrected according to the data furnished by Mr. Muir.

Statement showing the number of Extra Police entertained for the working of the Repressive Rules during the half-year ending 31st March, 1873.

Districts.	Number of extra Police entertained.				REMARKS.
					Rs.
Saharnnpore ...	3 Head Constables	on Rs. 20 per mensem,			60
Futtehpore ...	4 Ditto	" " 15	ditto	...	60
Azimgurh ...	1 Sub-Inspector	" " 30	ditto	...	3C
	2 Head Constables	" " 10	ditto	...	20
	1 Inspector	" " 200	ditto	...	200 (discontinued from April, 1873.)
Shahjehanpore, Bustee ...	3 Head Constables { 1 2	" " 15 " " 10	ditto	... } 35	
Cawnpore ...	1 Inspector	" " 150	ditto	...	150
	1 Ditto	" " 100	ditto	...	100
	1 Ditto	" " 100	ditto	...	100
				Total	755

Statement showing the principal results of the enforcement of the Rules of Repression of Female Infanticide in the North-Western Provinces during the 2nd half-year of 1872-73.

Districts.	Population.	Villages.	Births.	Deaths under one year old.	Per milie per half-year.	Punishments.		Number of suspicious cases.
						Boys.	Girls.	
1 Meerut	5,894	5	17	8	28	4	3	7-8
2 Aligarh	8,519	83	103	102	24	22	5-7	4
3 Saharanpur	52,996	239	724	661	26	139	5-2	2
4 Boondshahar	25,563	83	319	290	23-8	47	3-5	..
5 Agra	33,148	109	270	174	45	43	2-6	..
6 Muttia	5,1773	5	23	20	24	6	5	..
7 Farrukhabad	17,165	106	196	200	23	53	5-7	6
8 Mynapore	38,288	606	438	406	22	71	6-4	4
9 Etawah	37,051	689	277	287	18-1	22	5-9	6
10 Etah	14,577	113	165	160	22-3	32	4-2	1
11 Bareilly	16,428	161	169	142	19	35	4-5	..
12 Bijnor	13,743	88	161	152	22-7	27	4	3
13 Moradabad	94	10,762	127	110	22	29	5	11
14 Shahjahanpur	42,934	855	466	420	20-6	130	5-6	5
15 Cawnpore	34,380	293	372	359	21	86	4-5	45
16 Fitehpore	275	1,216	103	101	18-2	24	30	45
17 Banda	72	20,411	166	120	14	26	19	37
18 Huneerpore	107	14,283	104	115	15-3	19	2-2	37
						18	2-6	12
						..	..	9

Statement showing the principal results of the enforcement of the Rules of Repression of Female Infanticide in the North-Western Provinces during the 2nd half-year of 1872-73—(concluded.)

	Villages.	Population.	Deaths under one year old.		Punishment.		Number of infanticides.	Number of post-mortem cases.
			Boys.	Girls.	Chowkees.	Midwives.		
19	Jonnopore	29,405	238	245	16·4	41	23	15
20	Benares	1,106	3	7	9	1	...	3
21	Azimgurh	28,178	220	213	16·4	27	20	16
22	Mirzapore	1,673	22	11	19·7	3	3·5	...
23	Ghazeepore	40	3·89	38	27	1	...	3
24	Bustee	239	17,846	156	164	18	38	5
25	Jaloun	153	16,210	176	177	21·7	20	22
Total	...	4,959	485,938	5,081	4,767	20·3	953	39
							291	6
							218	709
							317	22

ALLAHABAD :
The 17th July, 1873.

T. DENNEHY, Major,
Offy. Depy. Ingr.-Genl. of Police, A.-W. P.

27.—*Resolution No. 37 of 1873, Judicial (Infanticide) Department, dated Allahabad, the 3rd of October, 1873.*

READ—

Letter No. 2688A., dated the 9th August, from the Officiating Inspector-General of Police, forwarding report by Major Dennehy, Officiating Deputy Inspector-General of Police, on the working of the infanticide rules in the North-Western Provinces for the latter half of the year 1872-73.

READ again—

Resolution No. 126A., dated the 2nd April, 1873, reviewing the report for the first half of the year 1872-73.

OBSERVATIONS.—The Lieutenant-Governor has read with much satisfaction this record of continued progress and success in the prosecution of the important measures set on foot for the prevention of the crime of female infanticide. Major Dennehy's report, with its annexed statements, is able and exhaustive, and Colonel Tyrwhitt sums up the main points of importance, and brings out well the advance that has been made towards the suppression of this grievous crime. The following table shows the principal results of the enforcement of the rules of repression among the proclaimed clans during the year 1872-73:—

Districts.	Numbers.	Villages.	Population.	Per mille per annum.	Deaths under one year old.		Per mille per annum.	Chloro-keedars.	Midwives.	Heads of families,	Exe.	Number of inmates.	Number of suspitions cases.	
					Boys.	Girls.								
1	Saharunpore	...	239	52,996	1,328	1,273	50	252	235	9·2	18	1	30	118
2	Meerut	...	5	194	27	16	48	8	8	17·8	...	...	...	9
3	Boolundshuhur	...	83	25,563	567	596	468	105	116	8·5	31	...	76	47
4	Alliygurh	...	83	8,619	184	190	44	31	49	9·3	5	2	41	2
5	Muttra	...	5	1,773	28	34	34·7	3	14	9·5	3	...	6	10
6	Agra	...	109	33,148	565	567	34·4	97	119	6·6	...	...	1	35
7	Farruckabad	...	106	17,165	365	342	41	99	95	11·3	51	...	7	100
8	Mynpoory	...	606	38,288	667	659	34·5	118	118	6·1	9	6	5	66
9	Etawah	...	689	31,051	490	555	33·6	71	125	6·3	7	...	...	64
10	Etah	...	113	14,577	280	309	40·3	60	72	...	5	1	3	27
11	Bijnour	...	88	13,713	304	333	46·2	54	54	8·5	18	4	16	26

* For 6 months only, from 1st October, 1872.

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2. In the last half-yearly review the number of districts under the Act was shown as 24. It is now 25, reports from Banda having been received from the 1st October, 1872. From the same date also the Act was extended to a greatly increased number of villages in Azimgurh (382 instead of 48), so that a fresh departure has been taken from that time. But in order to get the true proportion of births and deaths to the population, it is necessary to assume that an equal number would have been reported from those two districts in the first half of the year. Treated thus, the number of births was 18,259, and the number of deaths 3,774 during the year.

3. In the first half-year, the births of 3,753 boys and 4,109 girls were registered, and this discrepancy between the sexes was set down to inaccurate reporting, and to the common impression that it was more important to record the births of girls than of boys. The soundness of this explanation has been fully shown by the enquiries made in the cold weather, and the erroneous impression has, it may be hoped, been corrected.

4. During the last half-year the reported births of boys were 5,081, and of girls 4,767, figures which (allowing for the inclusion of boy births of the previous half-year not reported at the time, but detected by subsequent testing,) probably represent with fair accuracy the proportions of the sexes. Making the same assumption as before in the case of Azimgurh and Banda, the total of births of boys during the year was 9,132, and of girls 9,127.

5. The propertionate annual birth-rate was 37.6 per mille of the total proclaimed population,—a ratio which may be accepted as not far from the truth. The districts which (omitting those with too small a population to base an average on) exceeded this ratio were Saharumpore, Boelhindshuhur, Allygurh, Furruekabad, Etah, Bijneur, Moradabad, Shahjehanpore, Futtehpore. Those which fell below it were Agra, Mynpoory, Etawah, Cawnpore, Banda, Humeorpore, Jounpore,

Azimgurh, Jalonn. It will be important to notice if the general prevalence of this higher birth-rate in the north-western districts, and lower rate in the south-eastern districts, is observable in the returns of future years. It may be due to the accidents of a year, or to inaccurate registration; and it may possibly also point to some climatic law.

6. In the first half-year the deaths of 801 boys and of 1,000 girls under one year were reported; in the second, 956 boys and 953 girls. This points to a decided improvement in the accuracy of the returns. The testing carried out in the cold weather satisfactorily showed that there had been a general impression abroad that it was only female deaths of which accurate registration was necessary. Many of the omissions were corrected, but in most cases the incomplete registration of the first half-year cannot be repaired. Assuming the same figures for Azimgurh and Banda in the second as in the first half-year, the reported deaths of boys were 1,798 and of girls 1,996 during the year,—a death-rate which falls at 7·8 per mille on the total population. This is an exceedingly high rate (from 5 to 6 per mille is believed to be the true average rate in Europe), but the year was one abnormally marked by the prevalence of fever and (though in a less degree) of small-pox. The districts which exceeded the average rate were Saharupore, Boolundshuhur, Allygurh, Furruckabad, Etah, Bijnour, Moradabad, Shahjehanpore, Futtehpore, Bustee; those which fell below it are Agra, Mynpoory, Etawah, Banda, Humeepore, Jounpore, Azimgurh, Jaloun. Thus, with only two exceptions, the same districts which exceeded or fell short of the provincial average in respect of birth-rate, exceeded or fell short of it in respect of death-rate. This points to a variety of practice in registration of these events which requires the attention of the police officers. Either the number reported in the south-eastern districts is less than the truth, or more births and deaths are rerecorded in the north-west ones than actually occurred. The latter supposition is hardly possible, but careful enquiry should be made on the subject.

7. Inquests were held in 1,050 out of the 1,937 cases in which girl infants died, and in 634 of these there were found to be sufficient grounds for sending in the body for *post-mortem* examination. Of these 57 deaths were pronounced by the Civil Surgeons to be attended with grave suspicion. Twenty-two cases altogether were brought to trial; of these, sixteen were acquitted for want of proof, one was pending at the close of the year, and five were convicted. Two of these convictions were obtained at Cawnpore, one at Furrneckabad, and two at Azimgurh. One of the Azimgurh cases was considered to be of such importance that the finding of the Sessions Judge was published in the *Government Gazette*.

8. Major Deenchy's abstract of the 22 suspicious cases which occurred during the last half-year, with the judicial enquiry which followed, will be found among the appendices to this report, and is full of interest. His Honor especially commends the careful investigations made by the authorities of Shahjehanpore.

9. There has been a great increase in the number of punishments inflicted during the last half-year on account of breaches of the Repressive Rules. During the year 247 heads of families, 416 chowkeedars, and 11 midwives have been punished for failure to report births and deaths of infants. The Lieutenant-Governor gathers from the district reviews that punishment has been imposed with discretion and moderation, and this is as it should be. The rules being new, many breaches of them may be committed through ignorance or forgetfulness; it is only when the omission is determined and repeated that it should be severely punished.

10. The general effect of the working of the Repressive Rules has been well brought out by Colonel Tyrwhitt. In the earliest district the introduction of the rules dates from March, 1871, and in the latest from October, 1872; the average period has been 18 months. The results may be summarised thus:—

		Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.
Initial population ...	...	193,972	147,636	96,318	47,910
<i>Add—Arrivals</i> ...	...	3,056	6,07	1,820	1,902
Births ...	...	...	...	12,218	12,584
Transfer from minors to adults	...	1,543	453	...	...
	Total ...	198,571	154,156	110,396	62,396
<i>Deduct—Removals</i> ...	...	2,996	6,716	3,414	2,976
Deaths ...	...	5,377	3,611	4,346	4,255
Transfer from minors to adults	...	...	...	1,543	453
		8,373	10,327	9,303	7,684
Net resultant population ...	..	190,198	144,329	101,093	54,712

By these returns the total population has increased from 485,938 to 490,332; the number of boys has risen by 4,735, and the number of girls by 6,800, and the percentage of girls to children has risen from 33·3 to 35·2.

11. The item in which these figures are least reliable is in respect of the transfers of minors to adults. The police can have no accurate information on this head, and in many districts it appears that no attempt has been made to effect the transfers. In future this should be done with such care and approximation to truth as is possible. In the course of time, when all the minors in the register have had the dates of their births recorded, perfect accuracy will be obtainable, and year by year a greater approach to it will be possible.

12. The number of removals and arrivals is larger perhaps than might have been expected, but it is evident that in several respects a more uniform system of registration is required. In some districts the transfer of minors to the adult column has been confused with these entries; they have been shown as removals from the column of minors and arrivals in the column of adults. This is of course wrong, and must be corrected. Again, it is noticeable how much more numerous the removals and arrivals of adult females are than of adult males. This no doubt is due to the customary visits of women

to their fathers' houses, and probably the same person counts twice, *i. e.*, both as an arrival and a removal. Again, if a family leaves one proclaimed village for another, they would show both as removals and arrivals. It is probably impossible in figures to bring out the only point in which these entries have an important significance,—that is, to show how far they indicate that persons leave proclaimed villages to escape the pressure of the rules. The district officers should enquire into this on their tours, and report if any such cases have come within their knowledge. For the rest, the Inspector-General of Police will draw up a circular of instructions to secure uniformity in the registering of these events. Only such removals and arrivals as occasion a permanent increase or decrease in the family should be recorded, not mere temporary visits.

13. The increase in the number of female children, and in the proportion they bear to male children, is a cause of unmixed satisfaction to Government. And it must be remembered that this is the increase which is due to direct action alone, among families of whom it may safely be said that but for the Infanticide Act at least half of these 12,584 lives would have been lost. There can be no doubt that the indirect effect of the Repressive Rules has had a greatly wider reach, and that numberless villages and families to which, on account of the smallness of their numbers, or the less glaring character of their guilt, the Act has not been applied, have been indirectly influenced by the example of others, by fear of the extension of the rules to themselves, and by the moral support which the action of Government has given to the voice of nature pleading against a barbarous custom. We may, therefore, expect to find at the next general census that the number of females among the guilty clans and castes has very largely increased.

14. Colonel Tyrwhitt indeed points out with truth that, improved as the figures may be, they are still most lamentably

bad, and that the disproportion of 101,093 boys to 54,712 girls is opposed to all the laws of nature. But it would be a mistake to be impatient or discontented with the progress that has been made. It will take twelve years before the number of girls can be equal to the number of boys.

15. His Honor accepts with satisfaction the Inspector-General's assurance that the measures undertaken by Government have not caused discontent, and that their motive is understood and appreciated by the people. It is also gratifying to hear that no policeman has been accused of oppression or bribery in carrying out the operations required by the Act.

16. The working of the police in each district has been fully reviewed by Major Dennehy, and summarised again by Colonel Tyrwhitt. The Lieutenant-Governor does not find anything that requires special remark ; but it is obvious that the rules have been carried out much more intelligently and effectively than before. His Honor notices with especial commendation the zealous work of the police in Shahjehanpore, Furruckabad, Etah, and Azimgurh.

17. In future reports a more prominent place should be given to the work done during the half-year in checking the police registers on the spot. It should be stated how many villages have been visited and tested, and with what results. The Lieutenant-Governor commends the labor which Messrs. James and Muir, Assistant Magistrates of Etah and Bustee, devoted to this work.

18. A revised draft of the Repressive Rules is under consideration, in which the suggestions of the Inspector-General of Police have been considered and in part adopted.

19. The next half-yearly report (which should be submitted more punctually than this has been,) will show a very different set of figures from those of 1872-73. The orders of the Government of India under which the standard of guilt has been lowered from 40 to 35 girls out of 100 children have

resulted in greatly diminishing the number of villages and the population subjected to the Repressive Rules. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes to find that within this diminished area the supervision of the officers of Government has been still more vigorous and effectual than before.

20. In conclusion, the cordial thanks of Government are offered to Major Dennehy for his excellent report, and to Colonel Tyrwhitt for his careful supervision of this branch of his department.

